THE NATIONAL
Wool Grower

VOLUME XXXI MARCH, 1941 PERIODICAL DEPARTMENT NUMBER 3

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Sheep and Wool Affairs at Washington

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The Stockman's Views on Conservation

+

Wool Auctions in the United States

CENTRAL MARKETS

again take SPOTLIGHT ●

Among other things, the National Wool Growers Association at its January meeting in Spokane went on record that, "in order to maintain competition we recommend, where it does not conflict with the best interests of producers, that the practice of selling at Central Markets be continued."

It might be asked, "What are the best interests of producers?" The answer naturally would be to receive the most "net" dollars for lambs. Producers are in the business to make the most money possible from their operations the same as those in any other business.

Packer buyers have demonstrated their desire to purchase on the Central Markets where their buying expense is maintained at a minimum. But when supplies on the markets become inadequate, they are forced to go to the country. This heavier buying expense must be borne by some one—and it usually is the producer.

It has been proven that concentrated demand and competitive buying is evident on the Central Markets; that values are not established on a commodity without competition; and that the Central Markets send home the most "net" dollars for lambs sold in this manner.

In Idaho last year a total of 70,357 head of pooled farm fat and feeder lambs were sold. Of this number 10,782 were sold at home—and 59,575 were shipped to Central Markets. The records are clear. The Central Market lambs returned the most "net" dollars per hundredweight to their owners.

The National Association also stated that, "the sale-in-transit arrangement in effect at the DENVER MARKET has broadened the outlet for the sale of lambs consigned to that market."

If you are in business to secure the most for your lambs—if you desire to see good strong market points continued—then you too will resolve to ship to a Central Market.

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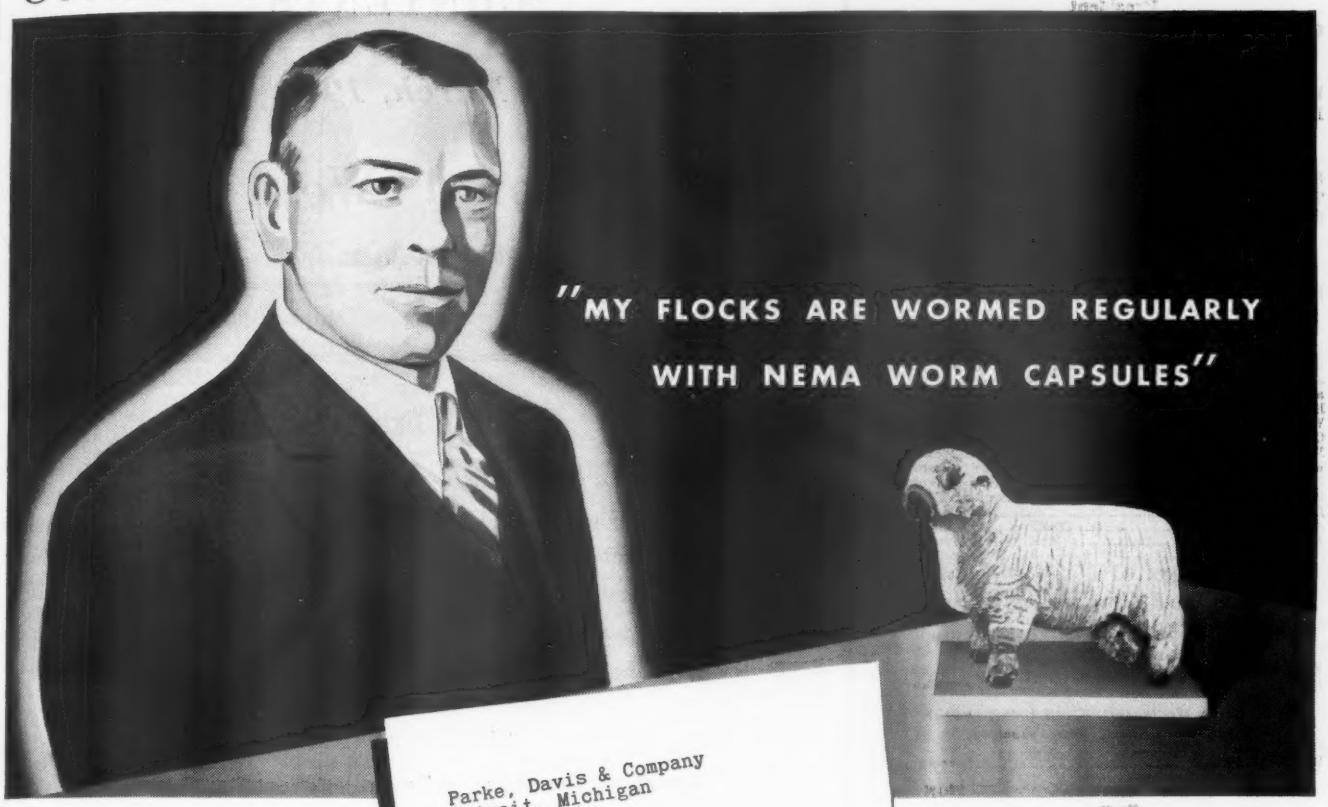
Consistent Winner – INTERNATIONALLY KNOWN SHEEP JUDGE



H. Noel Gibson, Mt. Brydges, Ont., Canada, is a Shropshire breeder, a successful showman for the past 49 years, and a recognized sheep judge in both United States and Canada.

Parke, Davis & Company
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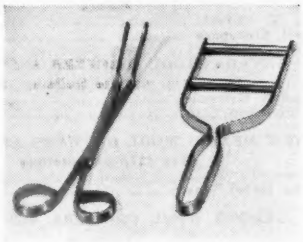
Yours very truly,

H Noel Gibson

Above: A statuette of Gibson's first prize Shropshire ram lamb at the 1939 International. H. Noel Gibson's sheep have won blue ribbons at every principal show in United States and Canada.



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F. R. Marshall, *Editor* Irene Young, *Assistant Editor*

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Sheep and Wool Affairs At Washington

Washington, D. C.
March 10, 1941

THE past month has chiefly been occupied with following up the matters discussed on this page in the February issue. It is yet impossible to see clearly just how the big government contracts for woolen materials to be let this month may affect the wool market.

Bids on two million blankets requiring 22 million pounds of wool are to be opened today at the office of the Quartermaster General. It is known that awards will be made to mills intending to use domestic wool at prices somewhat higher than for blankets made from foreign wool. Bidders may bid on all domestic, all foreign, or combinations. We have suggested to the War Department that bids be accepted on a basis to allow 10 cents more per pound for scoured domestic than for foreign wool.

Then, on March 17, bids are to be opened on 10 million yards of serge to run 18 ounces per yard, and on 10 million yards of shirting flannel weighing 10½ ounces per yard. On this we have asked that bids be accepted on the basis of $1.15 per pound of scoured domestic wool.

The recent highest preshearing contracts represent a Boston cost of about $1.05 for domestic fine wool. Prices for Australian fine wools have not changed, continuing at from 95 cents to a little over a dollar for the best.

Of course, there is not enough fine wool now available to make these goods. Bidders have been advised that they may increase the proportion of domestic wool in later deliveries and share in the differential in price, when fixed, to the extent that they actually use domestic wool in their entire contracts.

If the differential, to be determined later, turns out to be enough to permit the price of domestic wool as we have suggested, the market should go along at the level of recent contract prices. Some of the officials seem to think wool is about high enough, but nothing is said about direct control. Of course, wool going into government business can be held as close to the cost of Australian wool as is desired.

And the whole picture of administration is likely to change by executive orders under the new lend-lease law. It is already reported that the Defense Commission will be further shaken up, and that consumer, agricultural, and price matters will be combined under Leon Henderson, who has heretofore dealt with price affairs only.

Chester Davis has accepted the chairmanship of the Federal Reserve Bank at St. Louis. He expects to visit Washington frequently, and to continue as representative of agriculture in the defense program. It is not now possible to say what power will be granted to him or to any of the other present officials.

President Wardlaw was here nearly all of last week, accompanied by Russell Martin of Del Rio, Texas. We talked with several Senators, explaining the wool situation and the necessity of price differentials in favor of domestic wool in government orders that would more than sustain present prices for fine wools, and permit some gain for crossbred wools.

On March 7, Senators Connally, Sheppard and Thomas (Idaho) got nine other Senators from wool states together for a full discussion of the whole wool situation. We also talked with General Corbin, chief of the Supply Division in the office of the Quartermaster General. We suggested that all domestic wool be required in government goods purchased after shearing time. It is not certain that that policy will be adopted.

Our talk with Honorable Jesse H. Jones was very satisfactory.

Australian imports still are coming quite freely, and there have been shipments from South Africa. For the 250-million-pound reserve, about 50 million pounds have left Australia, and the biggest part is in storage in Texas and Massachusetts.

No consideration has been given to the selling of wool from the reserve supply, and we shall have a chance to be heard in advance should such action need to be considered at a later time.

The Department of Agriculture is asking Congress to change the parity base period for wool to cover the period 1919 to 1929.

The Division of Purchases, Office of Production Management, has agreed to buy lamb carcasses weighing up to 60 pounds until April 30. The same officials, in a conference with the cattlemen's committee, also agreed to take beef carcasses down to 450 pounds, to use heifer beef, and to limit purchases of foreign canned beef between now and June 30 to 20 million pounds.

No bills have been presented to clarify the Wages and Hours Law regarding overtime, as packers contend should be done. The government test case against Swift and Company is under way in Judge Igoe's Federal Court in Chicago.

Senator Ed. Johnson (Colorado) has reintroduced his bill relative to grazing on forest lands.

F. R. Marshall

Report and Complaint On Trading in Wool Top Futures

TRADING in wool top futures, as conducted by Wool Associates of the New York Cotton Exchange, came under the supervision of the Commodity Exchange Administration (United States Department of Agriculture) through an act of Congress on April 7, 1938. This law had been requested by the National Wool Growers Association.

Numerous growers, and many in the wool trade, felt that trading in wool top futures was so thin and controlled by such a small number of concerns that manipulation and quotation of prices injurious to buyers and sellers of actual wool were possible.

When the Commodity Exchange Administration (C.E.A.) took over its supervisory and regulatory powers in 1938, growers requested that an investigation be made of the character and effect of trading in futures. Now, thirty months later, the C.E.A. has published its report of such an investigation of transactions on the exchange from September 1, 1936, to June 30, 1938, referred to as the "survey period."

The following statements are selected from the summary of the 107-page report:

From the beginning of trading in wool top futures in 1931 there was a relatively steady growth until the summer of 1936. From September, 1936, to the end of 1939, the "survey" and "partial-survey" periods included in this study, the growth of trading was much more rapid. Volume of trading in December, 1939, was nearly 10 times the volume in September, 1936, while open contracts were 8 times greater. There were three periods for 1936 to 1939 during which trading and commitments increased markedly. In each period a sharp price change was accompanied by larger trading volume. Open contracts rose somewhat more slowly but tended to increase for some months after the major price movement ended. By the end of the period the market was broader, more closely related to prices and presumably more important in the marketing of wool and its products than it had been at the beginning of the survey.

There was considerable turnover in the body of traders in the market. Of 431 different traders who participated in trading at some time during the survey period, 218 held positions at the end while 213 had left the market. Approximately half of the traders in each of these two groups made profits, and half suffered losses, when a rough adjustment was made for commission costs. When the amounts of gains and losses were considered, the results were somewhat different. The group of traders leaving the market had aggregate losses considerably in excess of profits while the traders remaining had total gains exceeding losses.

The characteristics of a class of professional speculators were found most nearly in the group of speculators who had some connection with the industry. Some of the trading for the business accounts of firms in the wool trade was undoubtedly speculative, but separation of hedging and speculative trades would have required too exhaustive an investigation. If the futures trading of firms engaged in some aspect of the wool industry is considered non-speculative, there was no evidence of the existence of a body of professional speculators in the wool top futures market trading on a scale where their greater knowledge of the market and skill could be considered to have had an appreciable effect on prices. While the survey period may not have been typical with respect to profits, speculators not connected with the wool trade fared better than the industry-connected speculators, the profits of the former exceeding their losses, while the latter had losses in excess of profits.

A high degree of concentration existed on the wool top exchange during the survey period. More than half of the total trading on the New York exchange was done by 10 traders, and nearly one third by three traders. Further evidence of concentration was found in the substantial proportion of commitments, both long and short, held by the largest three traders on a number of dates and the persistence with which particular traders appeared among the largest three. Comparable situations as to positions were found, however, in some other futures markets. Delivery of wool tops on contracts was heavily concentrated in the hands of the group of topmakers. Within this group there was further concentration and delivery was accomplished very largely by the transferring of wool tops from one of two topmakers to the other.

One further aspect of concentration was found in the role played by two large topmakers. The two topmakers were among the largest three participants in trading and delivery and also among the largest three holders of positions on a number of dates. They were also among the largest three clearing members and the largest three futures commission merchants. Because of their important position in the market for spot wool and tops and the magnitude of their house and customers' operations in futures, knowledge of the market situation was available to them to an unusual degree.

Topmakers as a class have certain advantages over most other trade interests, growers and the public, because trading in the New York market is in wool tops. They have accurate information on conversion costs and knowledge of available combing facilities not obtainable by most other individuals. Because of the magnitude of their operations they are also in a position to know with greater certainty than most other interests the grades and qualities of wool and spot top available, both immediately and in the future.

Price spreads between wool on a clean basis and spot tops are determined principally by the costs of conversion. The amounts by which the prices of good quality spot tops generally exceed futures prices are influenced largely by availability of particular grades or types of tops. Accurate knowledge of these conditions is concentrated largely in the hands of topmakers. Both futures prices and the spreads between futures and clean wool prices are influenced by these cost and quality factors. It is evident that topmakers occupy a peculiarly favorable position in a wool top futures market. The undue advantage held by topmakers over other traders would presumably be reduced in a futures market in which trading was conducted in wool rather than in wool tops.

A few days after publication of the report referred to above, the C.E.A. issued a complaint and notice of hearing against Nichols and Company, large topmakers and extensive operators in wool top futures. Nichols and Company are charged by the Secretary of Agriculture with having violated the Commodity Exchange Act and the regulations promulgated pursuant thereto, by manipulating the price of October, 1940, wool top futures and the price of spot wool in interstate commerce, and with refusing to give C.E.A. officials access to records required to be kept. Other violations of law are also charged in the complaint.

Respondents are "notified to be and appear before a referee to be appointed by the Secretary of Agriculture at a hearing to be held at 10 o'clock a. m., on March 19, 1941, at Federal Building, Boston, Massachusetts, or at such other times and places as may be de-

termined by the referee, and then and there show cause, if any there be, why an order shall not be made revoking the registration of respondent Nichols & Company as a futures commission merchant and directing that all contract markets, until further notice of the Secretary of Agriculture, refuse all trading privileges to all respondents."

Futures Trading in Grease Wool

WOOL Associates of the New York Cotton Exchange have announced the opening, on March 17, of futures trading on a grease wool basis.

This form of trading was requested by a number of wool dealer concerns, some of whom desired to operate in wool futures without having to contract to deliver or receive wool tops. It appears that officials of the exchange anticipate larger trading by wool growers. Growers' operations in wool top futures have been almost negligible.

Of course, actual delivery in a futures market is the exception. The trading is in contracts to deliver, but a party in possession of the actual goods can deliver them in fulfillment of a contract.

The new regulations state that the grease wools will be deliverable only at Boston and must conform to the grease wool standard. The standard wools are described as follows:

A 64's graded wool shorn from living animals in the United States, being about 2½ inches average stretch length and of good color.

Any wools of average 60's or finer grades, United States Standard, grown anywhere in the world, are tenderable.

Deliverable wool must be "certificated" by exchange representatives, through which the clean yield is determined.

The unit of trading is the grease equivalent of 6,000 pounds of clean wool, ordinarily, from 15,000 to 18,000 pounds of fine wool in the grease.

The commission charge for the purchase and sale of a contract for one unit is $30.

Government Reaction to Sheepmen's Program

AS IS customary, printed copies of the Platform and Program of the National Wool Growers Association, as set up in committee reports and resolutions adopted at the annual convention in Spokane, this January, were sent, early in February, to the officials of the various governmental divisions or departments whose cooperation is necessary in the accomplishment of that program. In each instance, the attention of the department or division addressed was directed by number to the items of interest to it. The replies received to the letters transmitting the resolutions are printed below:

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
Washington, D. C.
March 8, 1941.

Mr. F. R. Marshall,
Secretary, Nat'l. Wool Growers Assn.,
509 McCornick Building,
Salt Lake City, Utah.
Dear Mr. Marshall:

Thank you very much for sending us the platform and program of your Association for 1941. We appreciate this opportunity to review the items relating to the activities of the Department of Agriculture with reference to which official action was taken by your annual convention.

We have noted with special interest and appreciation your Association's endorsement of the range conservation program. Your recommendation concerning the base period used in computing the parity price for wool merits further study and consideration by the Department.

With reference to the required adjustment in sugar beet acreage in 1941, we wish to point out that the 1941 allotted acreage for the continental beet area as a whole is only 16.9 per cent smaller than the acreage grown during the period 1938 to 1940, inclusive. The sugar program has undoubtedly introduced an element of stability in the acreage of sugar beets in many local producing areas. Stability in sugar beet acreage means stability in sugar beet by-products for supplemental feed purposes and is an objective which should be of considerable interest to sheep and lamb feeders dependent upon local feed supplies. The reduction in sugar beets for 1941 is not of such significance as to cause concern from the standpoint of feed supplies.

We wish to assure you that the several recommendations of your Association which relate to the activities of the Department of Agriculture have been noted with considerable interest and will be carefully studied.

Sincerely yours,
David Meeker,
Assistant to the Secretary

* * *

FARM CREDIT ADMINISTRATION
Washington, D. C.
February 20, 1941

Mr. F. R. Marshall, Secretary
National Wool Growers Association
509 McCornick Building
Salt Lake City, Utah
Dear Mr. Marshall:

I have your letter of February 1, with enclosures, relating to the matter of joint land and livestock loans. As soon as the questions involved in the matter have been considered in the light of your letter and the enclosures I shall write you further.

Very truly yours,
C. W. Warburton
Acting Governor

* * *

FOREST SERVICE
Washington, D. C.
February 11, 1941.

Mr. Fred R. Marshall,
National Wool Growers Association,
509 McCornick Building,
Salt Lake City, Utah.
Dear Fred:

Reference is made to your letter of February 3.

I am enclosing a list showing the number, subject matter and author of all bills introduced to date relating to National Forests and public domain. These comprise a sizable group, and I doubt whether you will want copies of all of them. If you do, I shall be glad to obtain them for you; or if there should be certain ones in which you are especially interested and if you will give me the number, I then shall be glad to obtain copies of these for you.

Senate Bill No. 3, mentioned in item No. 40 in your printed program, was introduced by Senator McCarran early in this session of Congress and is identical with S. 1099 introduced by him during the last session. You may be interested in knowing that the Forestry Committee of the American National discussed S. 3 during the Fort Worth meeting. They were in sympathy with its provisions but finally decided to take no action in support of the bill, inasmuch as to do so would not be in keeping with their announced policy of supporting no measure which would mean increased taxes.

Item No. 41 really originated in the State of Utah in connection with a more or less local complaint that the Forest Service was insisting on complete control of permitted sheep, but failed to insist upon or obtain adequate control of permitted cattle.

Item No. 42 originated with the delegates from California and is related to certain criticism on the part of sheepmen in the northern part of the State concerning the Forest Service method of handling violations of the fire laws.

In this connection I am enclosing for your information a copy of the Secretary's reply of December 26, 1940, to Chet Wing when he wrote in last fall concerning the fire question. It is my understanding that our San Francisco office is developing or has developed an over-all statement of fire policy in that State, which will be discussed with livestock associations before final adoption.

I shall look forward to seeing you around the 15th of the month.

Sincerely yours,
W. L. Dutton
Chief, Division of
Range Management.

* * *

AGRICULTURAL MARKETING SERVICE

February 14, 1941.

Mr. F. R. Marshall,
National Wool Growers Association,
509 McCornick Building,
Salt Lake City, Utah.

Dear Sir:

This is in reply to your letter of February 3 requesting information relative to matters that were the subject of certain resolutions passed by your Association at the annual convention at Spokane.

With regard to Resolution No. 11, Itemized Charges, we do not believe the situation complained about exists at stockyards operating under the provisions of the Packers and Stockyards Act. The regulations promulgated under that Act require that stockyard owners and market agencies operating at posted stockyards furnish producers and shippers with full and complete information in the accounts which are rendered covering the sale of livestock. The Department has no jurisdiction over feed yards or railroads but we are checking posted stockyards to see that the regulations are being followed.

While the price at which livestock sells is recorded on the scale ticket at a number of markets when the animals are weighed, we do not feel that the Act grants authority to require stockyard companies to place price information on the scale ticket since they have no part in the establishment of the price and, therefore, cannot be responsible for the correctness of the information. At auction markets where the operator of the stockyard usually acts as the market agency selling the livestock, all of the necessary information is furnished either on the scale ticket or in the account sales and this, of course is likewise true at all markets under our supervision. It may be that your resolution refers to stockyards and feed yards operating outside the provisions of the Packers and Stockyards Act and over which we have no control.

We are entirely in sympathy with the objective of your Resolution No. 17, Buying Practices. This Service has always encouraged the sale of all farm products on the basis of grade. This is evident in our grading and standardization work. We believe, however, that if material progress is going to be made in bringing about the sale of livestock on the basis of grade it will come as a result of insistence on the part of producers that their livestock be sold in this manner. In this connection you will be interested to know that the American Stock Yards Association at their annual convention in December of last year adopted a similar resolution in which they advocated the selling of livestock on the basis of grade.

Resolution No. 20, Excess Shrinkage and Loss, relates to a matter which does not come within the scope of this Service.

We are pleased to note the implied approval of our booklet, "Buying Beef by Grade," Miscellaneous Publication No. 392, contained in your Resolution No. 23, Meat Grading. We hope that a similar publication for lamb grades can be issued.

In accordance with your request we are enclosing a copy of Service and Regulatory Announcement No. 123, "Official United States Standards for Grades of Lamb Carcasses, Yearling Mutton, and Mutton Carcasses," together with Amendment No. 1, which provides for the trade names Medium and Common to be changed to Commercial and Utility respectively.

It will be appreciated if you will be more explicit as to your hesitation about concurring in standards for lamb along the same lines as those promulgated for beef. We should be glad to know just what it is that you object to in the beef standards.

Very truly yours,
C. W. Kitchen, Chief

* * *

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
Office of the Secretary
DIVISION OF GRAZING
Washington, D. C.

February 21, 1941.

Mr. F. R. Marshall,
National Wool Growers Association,
Salt Lake City, Utah.

Dear Fred:

The printed copy of the Platform and Program adopted by the National Wool Growers Association at the 76th annual convention at Spokane, Washington, which you so kindly forwarded, has been received and carefully read.

Your thoughtfulness in seeing that a personal copy was sent to our Washington office, as well as your many courtesies at Spokane, are personally appreciated.

Sincerely yours,
A. D. Molohon
Chief, Range Improvements

* * *

DEFENSE SUPPLIES CORPORATION
Washington, D. C.

February 6, 1941.

Mr. F. R. Marshall, Secretary,
National Wool Growers Association,
509 McCornick Building,
Salt Lake City, Utah.

Dear Mr. Marshall:

Mr. Jesse Jones has referred to me your letter of February 3 with the request that I acknowledge same.

Very truly yours,
John D. Goodloe
Vice President

Nevada Grazing Fee Case Before U. S. Supreme Court

THE U. S. Government has been granted a Supreme Court review of the Nevada grazing fee case, according to an Associated Press item, out of Washington, D. C., March 10. This case involves the right of the Secretary of the Interior to collect fees for grazing in Taylor Grazing Districts before the 10-year permits are issued. In 1936 a group of Nevada stockmen contested the government's authority under the Taylor Grazing Act to charge fees when only temporary licenses had been issued. In the fall of 1939 the Grazing Service filed suit in the Federal District Court of Nevada, alleging that the stockmen refusing to pay the fee were guilty of trespass and should be barred from the use of the range. The government was found in error and the defendants' motion for dismissal granted. On October 24, 1940, the Nevada State Supreme Court upheld the decision of the lower court.

The A.P. item announcing the U. S. Supreme Court review of the case, as it appeared in the Salt Lake Tribune March 10, follows:

The government was granted a supreme court review Monday of a decision that the Taylor Grazing Act does not authorize the

Secretary of the Interior to charge a temporary fee from persons grazing livestock on public lands pending the issuance of regular permits.

The Justice Department appealed from a decision by the Nevada Supreme Court which enjoined L. R. Brooks, regional grazier for that region, from barring 40 persons from the range for failure to pay for temporary licenses.

Solicitor General Francis Biddle said this decision "vitally affects the orderly administration of the Taylor Grazing Act." This legislation, passed in 1934, regulated use of the public land for grazing purposes.

Before 1934, Biddle said, more than 15,000 persons had been using the public range to graze more than 8,000,000 head of livestock annually. He explained that the "administrative undertaking" of determining who should be given term permits was huge and only now is nearing completion. For this reason, he said, the Secretary of Interior prescribed temporary fees.

The Nevada grazing district involved in the litigation cannot be placed on a permit basis for at least another year, the Interior Department said.

Western Wool Contracts

CONTRACTING in the territory wool states subsided early in March. Some of the contracts made between the publication of the February Wool Grower and the present time, March 12, have been reported as follows:

The A. T. Spencer (Gerber, California) clip was contracted late in February at 47 cents a pound. This is the highest figure reported for 1941 contracts. The transaction covered 1800 fleeces of 12-months' wool made up of half-blood and three-eighths grades shrinking in the low 40's. Other sales of light-shrinking wools in northern California are reported in a range of 38 to 42½ cents. The Eldorado County wool pool of that state, made up of 2,000 farm flock fleeces (12-months), is reported taken at 43 cents a pound.

In Montana about 75 per cent of the 1941 clip is reported taken on contract in a price range of 32 to 37 cents, the average price being between 34½ and 35 cents.

A large volume of 12-months' Texas wools has been reported contracted at 40 cents a pound, the 8-months wools from the same state selling around 37 to 38 cents.

In Arizona, where the shearing of the 1941 clip is reported above 70 per cent completed, sales have been made at from 30 to 37 cents.

In Utah the Jericho wool pool (35,000 fleeces) is reported as recently contracted at 33 cents. Antelope wools from the same state have been contracted at 33¾ cents. The Rich County pool of 18,000 fleeces was contracted at 35 cents, and 17,000 fleeces of American Fork wools, at 33 cents.

At points out of Lakeview, Oregon, wools have been contracted at around 32 and 33 cents, while the lighter-shrinking valley wools of that state are reported contracted as high as 40 cents a pound.

In Wyoming contracting has been done in price range from 32 to 35 cents, and on March 10th, 3600 fleeces of Gooding, Idaho, wool were taken at 37½ cents a pound, and 6300 fleeces of Hagerman wools, at 37 cents. In Colorado the bulk of the wool from the northwestern part of the state is reported as contracted at 35 to 37 cents.

Argentine Firm Purchases Western Rambouillets

A GROUP of fourteen Rambouillets, all show winners, are scheduled to leave New Orleans about March 22 for Buenos Aires, Argentina, under the care of Mr. Jack T. Murray of Ogden, Utah. Half of them are from the Wynn S. Hansen flock at Collinston, Utah, and the others from King Brothers Company, Laramie, Wyoming. The Soc. Anon. Pereda Lda., operators of one of the largest flocks of fine-wool sheep in South America, are the purchasers.

The selection from the Hansen flock includes the two-year-old grand champion ram at the 1940 Utah State Fair and a yearling ram and five ewes, also members of the Hansen show flock. In the King shipment are the first prize yearling and grand champion ram at the 1940 International, his pen mate, and five yearling ewes, sired by the King champion ram "Chief," and bred to their 1937 champion ram.

The sale was consummated by correspondence with Mr. Jorge Pereda, a younger member of the firm, who visited some of the western Rambouillet flocks two years ago. After his visit to the United States, Mr. Pereda wrote Mr. Hansen:

> I shall certainly have many things to tell our breeders at home, as what I have seen has, in a large way, contributed to set my ideas towards the development of our breeding on a certain path, which I knew was the best, even before finding out that breeders of American Rambouillets are all ready utilizing it with enviable success.

The Argentine Merinos, still retain the heavy wrinkles of the Merinos from Von Homeyer blood lines which Mr. Pereda's father purchased in 1893, the same year, Mr. Hansen says, in which his father, the late W. S. Hansen, purchased sheep from Garner Brothers, which were also of the Von Homeyer blood lines.

It is presumed that the present shipment of Rambouillets will be crossed with Argentine Merinos to correct various defects, as it is understood all difficulties regarding registration have been ironed out. If the Rambouillet type appeals to Argentine Merino breeders, it is the opinion of both Mr. Hansen and Mr. King that a new market for North American Rambouillet breeders will be opened up.

Officers of Dealers' and Manufacturers' Assns.

H. CLYDE MOORE, past president of the Boston Wool Trade Association, was elected president of the National Wool Trade Association at its annual meeting the first week in March. He succeeds Walter M. Marston. C. Willard Bigelow was reelected secretary-treasurer of the association.

Messrs. Arthur Besse and Walter Humphreys were continued in the offices of president and secretary-treasurer, respectively, by the National Association of Wool Manufacturers at its annual meeting in January.

In Memoriam

ANDREW LITTLE

ON February 24 Andrew Little of Emmett, Idaho, was buried in his home town cemetery. He had died in California where he went for treatment nearly a month ago.

For many years Mr. Little was the owner of more sheep than any other operator in the Northwest, but his importance to Idaho was not measured by his sheep, land or other holdings. For 30 years Mr. Little had been a leader in Idaho affairs. He had developed and perfected large properties in his section and knew their operations to the smallest details. He was possessed of a keen mind and endowed with physical energy that was the marvel of all who knew him. His place in Idaho looms large. He was a developer and a builder whose work was never finished, and never would have been. He worked for the pure, compelling interest he took in all his affairs. His charities were legion and known only to himself, unless they were discovered by accident. Men who had worked with him or for him were always taken care of.

When he was leaving for California for treatment a month ago, a friend who saw him off said, "Now, Andy, go on down there and forget about your sheep and business in Idaho." And Andy replied, "I would as soon be dead as to forget them." That was his spirit. For him the flowers and orange blossoms and green hills of California meant nothing. Its large cities and towering buildings were not the tools with which he worked. His place was here in the Northwest, among its hills and forests and ranges. Here in his own country he leaves an empire built and fashioned by his own hands. Had he been in the steel business, he would have been a Carnegie; had he been a railroad builder, he would have been a Jim Hill; had he been a military man, he would have been a Grant. Andrew Little, like the men here mentioned, was endowed with that "something" that America's developers all have possessed.

S. W. McClure

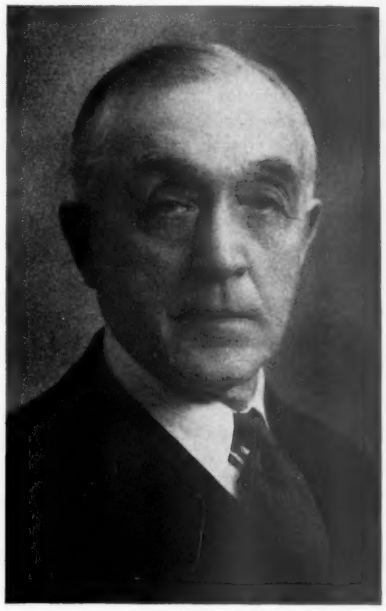
Andrew Little was born in Moffat, Scotland, December 19, 1870. In 1894 he came to Idaho, purchasing his first band of 1200 ewes in that year and 40 acres of script land the next. From that beginning his sheep operations grew until at one time 100,000 head of Little sheep ranged from Boise Valley to the Salmon River, and at the peak of his operations in 1929, produced approximately one million pounds of wool. At the time of his death Mr. Little owned 27 irrigated ranches, with more than 6000 acres in cultivation, and some 60,000 sheep, handled in small units. Each ranch produced the hay and grain for winter feeding of the flocks, enough vegetables and fruit for home consumption, and had its own equipment and horses. Supplies for all the ranches and sheep were purchased at wholesale and distributed from a commissary at Emmett.

As many as 400 men are employed at times in the Little sheep outfits, and it was in Andrew Little's ability to handle labor that his great strength lay. "He was exacting in his methods," The Boise Statesman writes of him, "kept his men busy twelve months out of the year, and after they became familiar with it, they liked his system. Many men now in the outfits have served faithfully for more than 20 years and others from five to 20. * * * He was described by his friends and business associates as broad-gauged, very systematic, and humane."

Mr. Little was a member of the Idaho State Sheep Commission and the Idaho Wool Growers Association, a director of the Idaho Livestock Production Credit Association, and president of the Emmett Holding Company. He had been signally honored also by having his portrait hung in the Saddle and Sirloin Club of Chicago, the only Idahoan and one of the few men in the entire West to receive such recognition.

Mr. Little married Miss Agnes Sproat of Scotland in 1901 in New York City. In addition to his widow, two sons, Andrew Little, Jr., and David Little, both of Emmett; two daughters, Mrs. Robert Naylor of Emmett, and Mrs. Lawrence Bettis of Gannett; and two grandchildren survive.

PETER McGREGOR



PETER McGREGOR, manager of the McGregor Land and Livestock Company, died at his home in Hooper, Washington, on February 8, from the effects of a stroke suffered about a year and a half ago. While his death was not unexpected, it came as a shock to the community in which he had lived so long, and for the development of which he had given so much of his time and energy.

Mr. McGregor led a colorful life, and no history of the Northwest is complete without some account of his activities. He was born 78 years ago near Owen Sound, Ontario, Canada. His education was obtained in the grade school and Collegiate Institute of Owen Sound, from which he graduated. Later he took a business administration course in Toronto, Canada.

In 1882, he came to Dayton, Washington, with his brother Archie. Each homesteaded near the site where they finally located their chief enterprise. Later they were joined by two other brothers, John and A. C., and the holdings of the brothers gradually increased until they now own the town of Hooper, with a large mercantile business, many acres of farm land and larger areas of grazing land. Included in their holdings are the McGregor Land and Livestock Company, in which Peter McGregor held the controlling interest, and which has been managed by his son, J. M. McGregor, for the past several years, and the Taylor Land and Livestock Company, operated by another son, Alex T. McGregor, who has also operated his father's personal holding, the Bar U Ranch, a large wheat and sheep ranch. The mercantile business of the McGregors is managed by Alec C. McGregor.

In the Inland Empire and throughout the Northwest, the McGregors built up a reputation for business stability and acumen, honesty and integrity. Peter McGregor was identified with many public enterprises, one of the most outstanding being his membership on the First Columbia Basin Commission, the outgrowth of which is the present Grand Coulee Dam. Although a Republican, he was honored by both Democratic and Republican governors by appointment to positions of trust. He served one term in the Lower House in the State Legislature and one term in the State Senate. He also served seven years as a regent of the Washington State College. For 20 years he was a member of the Board of the Spokane Branch of the San Francisco Federal Reserve Bank, and also served on many boards of directors of livestock and wool growers' institutions. For eight years Mr. McGregor was a member of the Parole Board of the Monroe State Reformatory, demonstrating his interest in the building up of the broken lives of many young men. He was a Presbyterian and high in Masonic circles, being both a Shriner and Scottish Rite Mason.

Mr. McGregor married Miss Evelyn Maude Taylor, the daughter of a pioneer Oregon family in 1893; she died in 1929. He is survived by two sons, John M. and Alex of Hooper; three brothers, Archie of Glendale, California, Donald of Ontario, Canada, and A. C. of Hooper, Washington; and two sisters, Euphemia of Spokane, Washington, and Mrs. Frank Skene of Calgary, Alberta, Canada.

Funeral services for Mr. McGregor were held in Spokane, February 11, with a large crowd of close friends and business associates paying tribute to the man they will long remember for his jovial disposition and sincere friendship. James Richardson, William Ovens, J. D. MacRae, Richard S. Munter, Frank Rothrock, and E. E. Flood were the pallbearers.

Meat Board Issues New Meat Literature

TO answer the constant and increasing demands for information on all phases of the subject of meat, the National Live Stock and Meat Board has just published two new booklets, "Meat Buying Manual," and "The Normal Diet."

The Board announces that "Meat Buying Manual," a twenty-four page illustrated booklet, has been especially prepared for teachers, students, home economists and homemakers. This new publication covers such subjects as judging quality in meat, the principles of beef, pork, lamb, and veal cookery, the need of meat in the diet and the selection of meat. Information is presented showing how to identify scores of meat cuts. The basic methods of meat cookery are explained, showing what cuts are prepared by roasting, broiling, pan-broiling, braising and cooking in water.

The booklet, "The Normal Diet," is built around the Board's newly revised Food Value Chart. Information is presented on how to select a normal diet, stressing the importance of meat in such a diet. A chart depicts the large proportion of essential nutrients furnished by meat. This chart shows that a four-ounce daily serving of meat furnishes the following percentages of the daily needs of the moderately active adult: 22.8 per cent of the protein, 12.7 per cent of the calories, 18.5 per cent of the phosphorus, 28.6 per cent of the iron, and 20 per cent of the copper. As regards vitamins, the booklet shows that this four-ounce serving of meat daily would provide 41.7 per cent of the daily thiamine needs, 31.9 per cent of the riboflavin, 82.7 per cent of the nicotinic acid and 15 per cent of the vitamin A requirements.

The Board also reports that the demand for the new educational motion picture, "Meat and Romance," is surpassing all advance estimates.

To date, the story of the selection, cooking, carving and nutritive value of meat, as presented in the picture, has been told to more than 415,000 persons throughout the United States after less than three months of distribution.

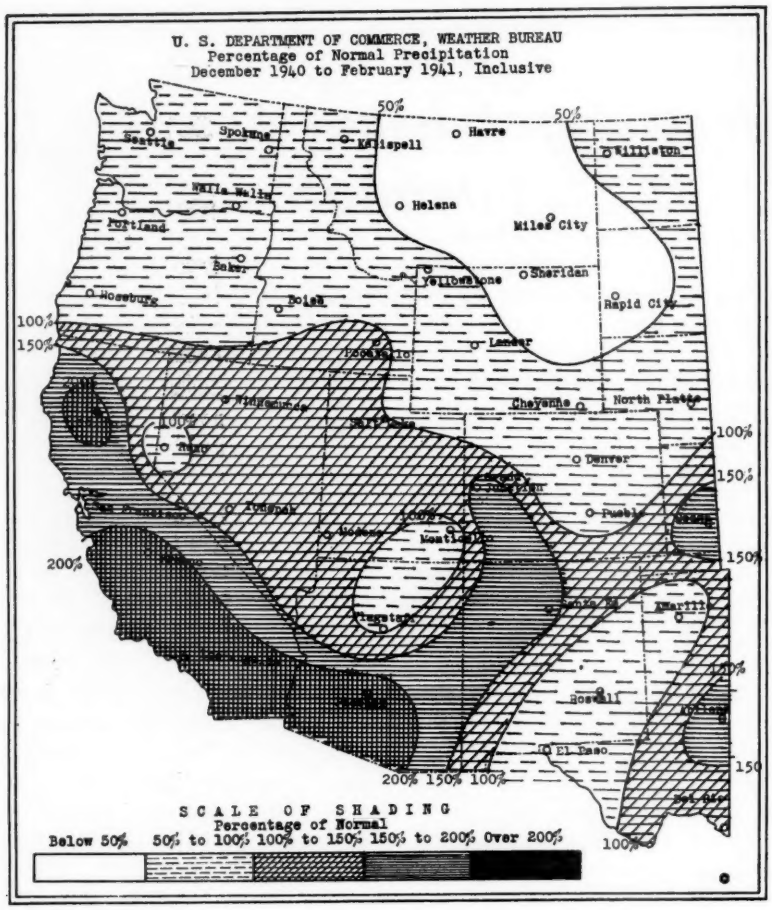
The film has been shown in every state of the Union, and to many types of audiences. Farmers, home economists, housewives, high school and college students, business men, hospital dietitians, physicians—people of all ages and in every walk of life have seen the film and their unanimous opinion is that it is extremely valuable and highly educational.

All reports received on the 2,988 showings of the film, to date, praise the message it carries. Many comment that "Meat and Romance" is the best educational film they have ever seen.

During the month of January, "Meat and Romance" was shown an average of 72 times daily to an aggregate audience of 224,670 persons.

The original announcement alone was sufficient to create such a widespread and keen interest in the film that at times the Board is unable to take care of all of the requests for it. All prints of "Meat and Romance" are now solidly booked through March, April, and May.

The Winter Moisture Record



As a result of persistent disturbances at sea, an unusual flow of moist air has been coming in on the continent from the tropical Pacific Ocean, deluging California and southern Arizona with the heaviest and most persistent rains for many years. With little abatement, these rains continued through the winter to date, though they were somewhat lighter in places during January. Precipitation has also been well above normal in Utah and Nevada, and in much of New Mexico, Colorado, and the southwestern Great Plains States, though touching normal locally.

The moisture did not reach much farther east or north, as a result of which, Oregon, Washington, Idaho, parts of Colorado and Wyoming, and the northern Great Plains region, have received subnormal, though fair to good amounts of moisture. Dry weather has persisted in most of Montana, northeastern Wyoming, and western South Dakota, where the winter precipitation has been less than half the normal amounts. Fortunately, however, for much of this driest region, February brought local storms that have left the land in fairly good shape for the present at least.

Precipitation on Western Livestock Ranges During December, 1940, January and February, 1941, with Departures from Normal for Three Months and Six Months, in Inches

	Normal 3-Months' Precipitation	Actual 3-Months' Precipitation	Excess (+), or Deficiency (—) 3 Months	Excess (+), or Deficiency (—) 6 Months
Washington				
Seattle	14.43	10.66	—3.77	—3.07
Spokane	6.12	5.03	—1.09	+1.71
Walla Walla	5.78	4.39	—1.39	+0.30
Oregon				
Portland	18.68	11.72	—6.96	—5.52
Baker	4.32	2.54	—1.78	+3.03
Roseburg	15.14	12.75	—2.39	—1.36
California				
Redding	19.08	45.80	+26.72	+24.77
San Francisco	12.34	21.20	+8.86	+8.80
Fresno	4.61	11.84	+7.23	+6.12
Los Angeles	8.80	20.13	+11.33	+11.10
Nevada				
Winnemucca	3.02	4.03	+1.01	+3.46
Reno	3.70	3.21	—0.49	+0.06
Tonopah	1.10	1.59	+0.49	+1.31
Arizona				
Phoenix	2.57	6.57	+4.00	+4.92
Flagstaff	7.18	6.10	—1.08	+2.61
New Mexico				
Albuquerque	1.18	2.24	+1.06	+2.67
Roswell	1.76	1.41	—0.35	—2.17
Texas				
Amarillo	2.02	1.61	—0.41	—0.59
Abilene	3.31	5.39	+2.08	+0.41
Del Rio	1.79	2.12	+0.33	—4.22
El Paso	1.39	1.23	—0.16	—0.39
Montana				
Helena	2.30	0.44	—1.86	—1.96
Kalispell	4.13	2.57	—1.56	—0.45
Havre	1.84	0.59	—1.25	+0.43
Miles City	1.78	0.68	—1.10	—0.40
Williston, N. D.	1.53	0.94	—0.59	+0.08
Idaho				
Boise	4.74	3.28	—1.46	+0.50
Pocatello	3.87	4.08	+0.21	+2.73
Utah				
Salt Lake City	4.25	4.16	—0.09	+2.63
Fillmore	3.75	3.99	+0.24	+1.26
Monticello	4.30	3.98	—0.32	+5.26
Modena	2.63	2.99	+0.36	+2.31
Wyoming				
Yellowstone Pk.	2.15	1.35	—0.80	+0.43
Sheridan	2.19	0.55	—1.64	—0.93
Lander	1.87	1.24	—0.63	+0.23
Cheyenne	1.61	0.93	—0.68	+1.36
Rapid City, S.D.	1.37	0.54	—0.83	—1.24
North Platte, N.	1.45	1.34	—0.11	—0.11
Colorado				
Denver	1.66	1.17	—0.49	+0.61
Pueblo	1.28	1.02	—0.26	+1.19
Grand Junction	1.81	2.77	+0.96	+3.11
Dodge City, K.	1.75	3.13	+1.38	+2.01

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Around the Range Country

WYOMING

Comparatively mild weather occurred most of the month, generally over the state; the last week or so, however, brought appreciably colder weather. Light to moderate but scattered precipitation occurred during the last half of the month, with no dearth of moisture in any section. Snow still covers the western portion as a rule, but livestock are still using the open range in eastern counties. Feeding continues in the west, and livestock in general are doing fairly well.

Thayne, Lincoln County

We don't winter-range any sheep in this valley; nearly all of them are ranch sheep, run in flocks of from 50 to 500 head.

About 20,000 fleeces have been contracted here; they were included in the Star Valley Wool Pool recently signed up at 38 cents a pound.

Alfalfa hay is quoted at $10 a ton in the stack. Wool growers' expenses have risen about 10 per cent during the past year.

It has been very cold here (February 28).

A. W. Jasperson

SOUTH DAKOTA

Mild weather prevailed until the last week or ten days when it turned much colder, but not severely cold. Light scattered precipitation was reported, though with no particular deficiency in any section. More or less feeding has been necessary, especially in the eastern portion. Grains and grasses have done well, and livestock are generally in fair to good shape.

Edson, Meade County

February has been a very good month for grazing, although lacking some in moisture (March 6). Alfalfa hay is held at $10 a ton, but it has not been necessary to feed any.

About 10 per cent of the wool has been contracted at 32 to 35 cents a pound.

Wool growers' expenses, I estimate, have increased about 8 per cent in the last year.

Our range is overstocked now, so there is no room for expansion here. Our chief need is the ability to get long-time leases on county and state-owned lands. In my outfit, I own about two acres per ewe and lease about four acres from the county, paying about 13 cents an acre in taxes on the owned land and a 6-cent lease rate. The value of the land I own runs from $1 to $2 an acre.

As a result of the work of government hunters, coyotes are less numerous than they were a year ago.

Ray Cooper

PERCENTAGES OF NORMAL PRECIPITATION BY STATES

FOR FEBRUARY, 1941
(Preliminary)

	%
Arizona	165
California	176
Colorado	80
Idaho	73
Montana	45
Nevada	120
New Mexico	120
Oregon	53
South Dakota	46
Texas	163
Utah	133
Washington	34
Wyoming	58

Note—All of the percentage figures are based on average precipitation for the entire state as reported by all the Weather Bureau stations, which total around 100 in each state. It is possible, therefore, that a particular area in any state may have had more or less moisture than indicated in the above percentage figure.

MONTANA

Most of the month was mild, the last week or ten days being the coldest, with temperatures below zero in places. Snowfall occurred occasionally, but not in large amounts. Very little feeding was necessary, owing to the supply of feed and the lack of deep snow, until the cold spell of the last several days, which necessitated increased feeding of livestock. Winter losses have been lighter than usual, and as feed has been plentiful, livestock are mostly in good shape.

Helena, Lewis and Clark County

Weather and feed conditions here are A1. Mild weather prevails and a smaller number of sheep are being fed hay or grain (February 27) than a year ago. Hay is selling around $5 a ton in the stack.

About 50 per cent of the wool of this section has been contracted within the price range of 31 to 37¼ cents.

My sheep are run largely on leased land. The land I own is valued at from $2 to $4 an acre and taxed at the rate of $20 a half section. I use about 12 sections of leased land for one band of 1700 to 2000 ewes, and pay, on the average, $25 per section.

I do not think conditions here warrant much of an increase in sheep numbers.

Our most perplexing problem at present is getting reliable help.

Judge C. F. Morris

IDAHO

Moderately to unusually warm weather prevailed, generally, over the state through the month. Light to moderate precipitation occurred fairly frequently in most parts of the state, with good snow supplies in the mountains. Some early vegetation is growing in the valleys, and soils are well supplied with moisture. Lambing is nearly completed, and livestock in general are doing very well. There has, however, been a great deal of mud in feeding lots.

Aberdeen, Bingham County

To my knowledge, no livestock have gone out on the range yet (February 27) this spring even though the weather has been mild. Hay and grain feeding has been about normal. We can get hay at $7.50 to $8 per ton in the stack. Most of the sheep in this section are owned by farmers and pastured on ditches and waste places.

The farm wool pool of this section was recently contracted at 35 cents a pound, the general range in contract prices on wools around here being 33 to 36 cents.

I think nearly all wool growers are concerned at present over what the effect of the national defense program will be on prices and how much government control there is going to be.

John L. Toevs

WASHINGTON

Much mild weather occurred, and there were some sunny days, though rainy days were frequent, with light to moderate amounts of moisture nearly everywhere. Grains and grasses are showing some growth, and wheat is very good. Lambing is progressing, and livestock are generally in very good condition. The season is somewhat ahead of normal development as a general rule.

Mesa, Franklin County

We have been having very good weather, and feed is better than usual (February 28). Due to good green grass on the range, less hay, which is quoted at $8 a ton in the stack, has been fed. Most of the sheepmen of this county have cut down on the number of sheep run, and I do not think there is room for any increase now. We have a most perplexing range problem. Due to the arid climate it is almost impossible to find a suitable grass to plant. I run all my sheep on leased land, using about 10 acres per ewe and paying 5 cents an acre for it.

Government trappers have such a large territory they cannot cover it properly, so coyote numbers are increasing.

No wool has been contracted here.

James A. Lowry, Jr.

OREGON

Mild weather has been the rule all month, in all sections, though nights brought freezing temperatures occasionally, and frequently east of the mountains. Rains in west and snows in east were of frequent occurrence, and ample in amount for immediate needs. Conditions have thus favored the feeding and foraging of livestock in most sections, leaving them generally in good condition.

Imnaha, Wallowa County

Winter range conditions have been good, as a result of lots of rain and plenty of green grass. There has been a shortage of snow at the five and six thousand-foot levels, however.

I did not breed quite so many ewes last fall, and do not believe any more than the present number of sheep could be run in this district. The going price on yearling ewes, both fine-wools and crossbreds, is $9 a head (February 12).

I own about 2½ acres of land per ewe, which, with irrigated land included, is valued at $7 and taxed at 7 cents an acre. I also lease one acre per ewe at 20 cents an acre.

The sheepman's expenses have gone up about 10 per cent during the last year. Coyotes are more numerous also.

Bailey Maxwell

Klamath Falls, Klamath County

With very good winter range conditions, it has not been necessary to do so much supplemental feeding this winter. Hay can be had at $6 a ton in the stack (February 6).

There can't be much expansion in sheep numbers here, as it is hard to get sufficient lambing and summer range. There has been an increase of about 10 per cent in the cost of things the sheepman must buy. Coyotes, too, are increasing in numbers, as not enough trappers are employed to do a proper job in controlling them.

This year's wools are being contracted at 30 and 31 cents.

I own 1½ acres of land per ewe. The range land used is valued at $2 to $5 an acre and the farm land from $100 to $150 an acre. Taxes run from about 6 cents and up on grazing lands to $3.50 on farm land. In addition I lease about 7 acres of land per ewe, for which I pay 7½ cents an acre.

Dennis D. O'Connor

The notes on weather conditions appearing under the names of the various states in Around the Range Country, are furnished by J. Cecil Alter of the U. S. Weather Bureau and based upon reports and publications for the month of February.

The Wool Grower welcomes and desires communications from interested readers in any part of the country for this department of the Wool Grower and also invites comment and opinions upon questions relating to the sheep industry and of importance and significance to wool growers.

CALIFORNIA

Temperatures averaged somewhat above normal nearly everywhere, with moderate to heavy rains in most sections at lower levels. Ranges, pastures and cover crops are in good to excellent shape, and livestock are nearly all in good condition, normal or above for this time of year. Heavy rains have hindered field work on farms in places, but the moisture has promoted good growth of grasses.

Artois, Glenn County

We have been having entirely too much rain here (March 3), but feed, having an early start, has kept up fine. Alfalfa hay is selling at $6 to $8 a ton.

About 50 per cent of the wool has been contracted in a price range of 35 to 40 cents.

All my sheep are run on privately owned land, valued at $30 an acre and taxed at the rate of 50 cents an acre. I own about 1½ acres per ewe.

A. O. Peiper

Mission San Jose, Alameda County

We have had rain nearly all of February, and feed is being held back on account of lack of sunshine. More sheep have been getting hay this winter than usual, and lambs and ewes are not up to normal at present (February 28).

While there has not been much increase in my expense items, I have had serious losses through coyotes. This year these losses have so far amounted to 10 per cent of my crop. A lack of cooperation from adjoining counties prevents effective coyote control work.

A small amount of wool has been contracted at 35 cents.

I own about 1 1/3 acres of land per ewe. It is valued at $30 per acre and taxes run about 40 cents per acre. I do not lease any land.

M. J. Overacker, Jr.

(Continued on page 41)

In Northern Colorado Feed Lots

ON January 1, this year, there were 635,000 lambs in feed lots of northern Colorado, according to estimates by the Department of Agriculture. This number was 100,000 short of the 1940 estimate for that date and more than 250,000 under the 1938 figure. Even with the reductions, there were more lambs in the process of getting ready for market in that area than any other place in the United States on that date. There were only 200,000 on feed in other parts of Colorado and the entire State of Iowa, second in numbers of lambs on feed on January 1, 1941, only had 617,000.

A flock of northern Colorado feed-lot lambs is shown, to the left above, pasturing on a stubble field during the early part of October, 1940. The summer season last year was unusually dry in this area, but the month of September brought abundant rains and liberal supplies of moisture; consequently, pasture conditions on farms were excellent through October and early November.

The lower picture was taken at the same farm in the early spring of 1940. The lambs are getting a grain ration for their evening meal.

Photos, Courtesy L. A. Moorhouse

The Stockman's Views On Conservation

By Sylvan J. Pauly
Vice President, National Wool Growers Association

An Address Before the National Wildlife Institute
Memphis, Tennessee, February 17, 1941

Sylvan J. Pauly

BY WAY of beginning, let me say that I am proud and happy of an opportunity to address this splendid gathering in behalf of the National Wool Growers Association. This is, indeed, an honor and a privilege. I am happy to bring to you the personal greetings of Mr. C. B. Wardlaw, president of the National Wool Growers Association, who regrets he could not be here personally today. I bring to you the greetings and a message of goodwill from the livestock people of the western range states. We extend to you our heartiest cooperation in the advancement of your program. We respectfully ask in turn that you meet us part way in the solution of some of our mutual problems.

In the course of my remarks this morning, I shall limit myself to a discussion of our problems primarily from the wool grower's point of view, although, in passing, I should remind you that, with the exception of certain minor differences, the problems of the sheepman and the cattleman are similar in many respects. They have only minor differences. They share, in common with the lovers of wildlife, the sane and proper use of forage crops on western ranges. I trust you will pardon me if I refer rather frequently to conditions in Montana, my native state, because, naturally, I am most familiar with those; but as a general rule, the problems involved in my state are practically the same as in all western range areas.

Sometimes I wonder if you who live in the older and more securely established portions of the eastern United States, fully appreciate the importance of the part which the livestock industry has played in the development of our nation. This business did not spring up over night nor was it purely the result of accident. Sheep and cattle have played a prominent part in the development of the West. First came the missionary, prompted ever onward by religious zeal; then the trapper and miner, lured to untold dangers by the hope of profit; but after them came the cattlemen and the sheepmen with their vast herds and flocks. A race of men as brave and hardy as the world has ever known, they forged their way into the tractless wilderness ahead of their fellowman—even before the railroads—and formed the vanguard of our present-day civilization. Livestock, and I refer now to both sheep and cattle, had this one great advantage. They were mobile units that could move about from place to place on their own power. To illustrate what I mean: If you produce a can of cream, a bushel of wheat or a pound of potatoes, it must be hauled to market unless you consume it yourself. But these droves of livestock could forage far and wide into this new country, and when they had grown fat and multiplied in numbers, they could in turn be gradually driven back to some shipping point or railhead. As this activity increased in volume, it brought more and more people into the West, and by degrees, log cabins, permanent homes, and young families began to flourish on the spots first visited by these herdsmen. And today, many a fine ranch home and many a town stand on the spots where once a lonely cowboy or a lonesome herder gazed at the dying embers of a tiny fire beneath a friendly sky.

Today the livestock industry of the West plays an important part in the economic life of our nation. It is an integral part of that great industry which supplies meat and clothing to the homes of America. It is not my purpose today to burden you with a great many facts and figures. And, it is impossible in the limited time allotted to me to discuss all of the problems connected with wildlife and conservation on the range. So for that reason I shall purposely pass over those vast areas of publicly owned land, which are now administered under the Taylor Grazing Act, although they were the original homes, primarily, of the buffalo and the antelope. I shall rather limit my remarks to a discussion of the problems involved in the proper use of our national forests, where, after all,

is to be found our greatest wealth of wildlife and big game animals, today.

Distribution of Forest Grazing

Just to refrsh your memories, there are in the United States about 175,000,000 acres of national forests, and of these, 132,000,000 acres lie in the so-called 11 western range states. Of these 132,000,000 acres, about 82,000,000 acres provide the great livestock industry of the West with an important part of its summer range. That in itself is an area less in size than the State of Montana. Of this total area, roughly, 20 per cent is used by sheep, 42 per cent by cattle, and on 38 per cent no domestic livestock whatever is permitted to graze. It is reserved entirely for the use of game and wildlife, and recreational purposes.

Thus, you see the use of these ranges plays an important part in the economic structure of our nation. In the West we find millions of animals start their lives, and then go on to the great feeding areas of the corn belt and, finally, end up in the densely populated area of our industrial centers.

To feed the American people requires the annual slaughter of 82,000,000 animals. To put this in more graphic form —to feed the mouths of our people requires 150 hogs per second, in which the West plays no important part, 50 beeves, 30 lambs and an estimated 15 calves per second. Any move that would disrupt this steady flow of food to the tables of our American homes would prove costly indeed to the American housewife. In addition to meat products, this industry provides both leather and wool for clothing. Only recently I read that it requires 135 pounds of wool as it comes from the sheep's back, to supply and fully equip one American soldier or sailor with all necessities. We, of the West, who are engaged in this great business, are proud of the contribution we are making to the health and comfort of our people both in times of peace and in times of war.

Increase in Big Game

It may be interesting to you to know that in the mountains, at least, the number of game animals to be found today is probably in excess of the number which existed a hundred years ago. Of course, this is not true in the plains areas outside the national forests. Furthermore, census figures of our game population indicate a very healthy and substantial growth in the number of big-game animals; it has nearly trebled in the past 15 years, despite a heavy increase in the number of animals taken during the hunting season. This has been accomplished without seriously disrupting the use of these national forest areas by domestic livestock in summer. Proper and scientific management and control have contributed materially in this respect, and, as you know, one fourth to one third of the natural forage cover is left on the range each fall. This protects the watersheds, promotes a more vigorous growth of plant life, and provides adequate feed for game whenever they can reach it. Incidentally, I might add in passing that the presence of this livestock in the national forests during the summer season is perhaps the most effective single means of fire protection we have today. The consumption of a portion of the brush and undergrowth in itself eliminates a great fire hazard. The presence in these areas of numerous herders, cowboys and camp tenders helps to extinguish many fires, particularly those started by lightning, before they can do any damage.

Need for Winter Range

As I stated at the beginning of my remarks, I have spent my life on the range, and I can truthfully say to you that the elimination of domestic livestock—and by that I mean both sheep and cattle—from our public ranges, would not tend materially to increase our wildlife population beyond present numbers. As a matter of fact rather the opposite is to be expected, if that is ever done. There is ample room on these national forests for all the sheep and cattle which graze upon them now and two, perhaps even three times, as many game animals as there are today. There is ample *summer* range for all. The crying need of these big-game animals is for suitable and ample *winter* range, and with your permission, I should like to elaborate upon this point. Where these animals were formerly wont to feed in the wintertime, we find that the white man's civilization has taken possession. Where the deer and the elk used to roam in the winter, we now find highways and railroads, farms and fields—yes, even cities and towns. As an extreme illustration, only 75 years ago, these animals wintered in goodly numbers on what is now the campus of our state university. As a matter of fact, from personal observation, I have seen large areas in western Montana in the headwaters of the Flathead, the Swan and the Big Black Foot rivers, where the excessive numbers of elk and deer starved each other to death in pathetic numbers during the winter. Every tree was stripped of its branches and its bark as far as these starving creatures could reach, while the palatable grasses, utterly untouched during the previous summer by sheep or cattle, lay buried out of reach by from four to six feet of snow. If you are sincere, and I firmly believe you are, in your desire to increase big-game population of western states, I urge you to do all in your power to provide, by purchase or otherwise, adequate natural and suitable winter ranges for these animals, and I wish to repeat over and over again that this cannot be accomplished by arbitrarily ruling off the national forests, the domestic livestock which now enjoy their use.

It has been called to my attention that some people are under the impression that these ranges are used by sheep and cattle free of charge. This is not true. Reasonable fees are collected from the stockmen for the use of these ranges, and although it is true that the rates are lower somewhat than on similar privately owned lands, it seems to us that this is only fair, because privately owned lands must pay taxes, whereas the others do not, and, furthermore, publicly owned areas lying within the boundaries of a state, must, of necessity, be policed by that state. In many western states the publicly owned areas comprise from 25 to 50 per cent of the total area of the state. In Montana, about 52 per cent is federally owned.

Predatory Animal Problem

While I have this opportunity of addressing you I should like very much to discuss, for a moment, the problem of predatory animal control. I know there are nature-lovers and I believe they, too, are sincere in their convictions, who are of the opinion that even our predatory animals should be protected in order not to destroy the original balance in wildlife as intended by nature. This theory, Ladies and Gentlemen, I would condemn as being utterly wrong and unsound, and I am talking to you now about predatory animal control, not from the point of view of a livestockman, but rather as a sportsman, who has the welfare of wildlife sincerely at heart.

And there again, I might add in passing that many erroneous impressions of livestock men have been circulated in recent years. We are referred to rather bitterly as "cattle kings" and "sheep barons." The impression is given out that we operate vast enterprises with great profit and at government expense. We are painted as predators who are destroying our national forests, the forage cover of our watersheds, the recreational and wildlife resources of the West, for our own personal gain. This is not true. I stand before you today and can honestly say that I have never personally killed a deer or an elk; I can assure you, without fear of contradiction and from first-hand experience and observation, that the livestock people of the West contribute more than any other class or group in the nation, toward the propagation of big-game animals during those bitter winter months to which I have previously referred. We contribute grass, and do so cheerfully up to a reasonable point, on privately owned land. This is true conservation. And to some of those who would assail us so bitterly, I would respectfully say that game is not, never has been and never will be propagated solely by the use of fishhooks and bullets.

And as I started to say above, the predatory animals do take a terrific annual toll of our wildlife. It is almost impossible to estimate the number of birds, particularly upland birds, that are destroyed annually by the coyote. When the snow gets deep in winter, and these so-called prairie wolves roam in packs, I know that many deer are killed annually. Time and again, I have come upon the spot, walking through the forest, where a kindly doe had affectionately tucked away her fawn in hiding and in peace, only to return somewhat later to find a few bones, a few bits of skin, a few drops of blood not yet dry. They told of another tragedy upon this earthly scene.

Earlier I called your attention to the importance of the livestock industry in the West and I should like to mention now the manner in which its income is derived. The livestock industry is not a parasitical industry. By that I mean it does not grow and prosper at the expense of some one else. It takes some of the natural products of the West which would otherwise go to waste, and converts them into useful articles of food and clothing. Out West each year we raise annually a most valuable crop of forage and grass. The soil—some fertile, some barren—our golden sunshine and the refreshing rains, combine to cover 11 western states in a robe of green each year, producing a forage crop of almost incomprehensible magnitude, and one that is growing in value—year by year. Yet all this would be a total loss were it not for the sheep and the cattle which we raise. Whenever you cut a tree for lumber, it takes almost a century for Nature to replace it; whenever you dig a ton of ore or coal from a mine, it is gone forever, never to be replaced—the same applies to a barrel of oil—but one of the reassuring features of the livestock industry is that even though one forage crop is harvested this year by our domestic animals, there will be another just as good waving in the breeze the following summer. Whenever we see a lock of wool, or taste a tender morsel of meat, let the imagination or poetic fancy if you please, have a little play. In my mind's eye, it represents just so many blades of grass, so many flowers, so many weeds, and so many bits of moss. They have been gathered from the open meadow and from the most inaccessible crag, from the valleys and from the mountains, from the arid plains of the eastern slopes and the shady forests of the West, and consecrated to the welfare and comfort of the human race and to the economic advantage of our country.

Every once in a while you hear some one say: "I hate sheep." Sometimes my friends say this with a certain amount of emphasis that is almost convincing. Of people who talk that way, I simply say, "They do not know sheep." Now the man who loves a dog is probably the fellow who, as a boy, had a pup one time. He probably gave that pup a name. He taught him to come bouncing and running at his whistle. The man who loves horses is the man who knows horses; he probably owned a horse one time—he taught it to lead, and later broke it to ride; the horse even learned which pocket to muzzle for a lump of sugar or a handful of oats—perhaps that horse has carried him safely home, through storms or out of danger. Yes, the man who loves horses is the man who knows horses. So, I say again, the man who says he does not like sheep, probably does not know sheep. * * *

Now, my friends, in conclusion, the West is a vast, youthful empire and the industry we represent is a fundamental part of it. I have said, and now will say again, as long as man needs fuel to keep warm, precious metals out of which to fashion the coins and ornaments of civilization, baser metals out of which to make the tools of peace and the weapons of war; clothing with which to keep the human body warm, and food with which to keep body and soul together; yes, as long as there is music in a babbling stream, beauty in the distant blue of a great forest; as long as there is a thrill in the majesty of antlers silhouetted against the rising sun; as long as man can gaze in rapture at the vastness of rolling plains, the majestic grandeur of mountain ranges with peaceful, sheltered valleys nestled among them—as long as there is room in the human heart for the matchless flame of a lingering sunset, so long will the West continue to be an important part of our great land.

Skim-Milk Hats

By F. Eugene Ackerman

ONE by one the traditions of the West are disappearing into that odd miscellany of man's mistakes called History. And now, economy in the shape of a new fiber has gone and sullied the purity of the old Stetson five gallon hat. It's become a milk container. A severely worded statement in a New York trade paper announces that hereafter the Stetson Company will mix some 15 per cent of a lactic acid fiber with the wool in their hats. A lactic acid fiber is a substitute for wool made out of casein. The sour milk that once went to the livestock and the chickens is now diverted to imposing new plants where the magic of chemistry produces another wool substitute.

The National Dairy Company has just put into operation the first lactic acid fiber plant in the United States, with a reported first year's production of some 50,000,000 pounds. This is equal to some 125,000,000 pounds of grease wool. The process used is one developed originally by the United States Department of Agriculture, and revealed for use free of charge to anyone interested. The Borden Dairy Company is rapidly approaching the production stage of their experiments of this new fiber, and may be expected to embark in the business before long.

The raw material, casein, of which this fiber is made is one of the most troublesome of dairy surpluses. It finds many uses, in paints and plastics, etc., but there is always an oversupply of millions and millions of pounds. What we don't produce here as a surplus we can draw from South America. At the present time the new lactic fiber is selling at around 50 cents per pound, on a clean basis approximating scoured wool.

The new fiber was first developed in Italy, where it is widely used as a wool substitute. Its development was part of the Italian government program to conserve foreign exchange by finding a substitute for wool, which can only be used in quantities and percentages under government licenses.

This lactic acid fiber is a new and sinister threat to the future of wool. A chemical analysis reveals that its constituents are almost identical with wool. It possesses good felting properties and melds with pure wool in an excellent fashion. To date it is made in only a limited number of staple sizes and its use has been somewhat confined. But the hat trade likes it! Not only has the old Stetson headgear of our strong Westerners taken to it, but the Hat Corporation of America that makes the fashionable Dobb, Knox and Cavenaugh hats is also using it. It says that it will consume from 500,000 to 1,000,000 pounds this year. Thus with no ballyhoo, there has suddenly appeared a formidable contender for the short felting wools—especially those Texas wools—the hatters like so much, of which some five or six million pounds at least will be used. Translate this on a 33 1/3 per cent basis into grease wool, and you will have the results of another assault on wool.

Who benefits? Certainly not the consumer, and not the wool grower. The beneficiaries are of course the producer of the fiber and the manufacturer of the hat. Fifteen per cent of the wool weight of a hat is only a few ounces. The saving per unit is infinitesimal, but the saving on the estimated million pounds which the Daily News Record of New York says the Hat Corporation alone will use is considerable. It won't change the retail price any.

The new lactic acid fiber contains some wrinkles that must be ironed out. For example, when it is subjected to a good wetting it is reported that there is a slight—oh possibly a very slight—odor of sour milk. It is reported also that the populous microbe family which lives in the world of milk and cheese won't vacate its premises just because the old home place has been disguised as an imitation wool fiber. The microbes keep right on under the delusion possibly that they are still making cottage cheese.

This brings one to the Wool Products Labeling Act. Hats containing wool, come under the provisions of the act. They must be labeled after July 1. As consumers, those whose livelihoods depend on wool and the incomes that stem from wool, help themselves by consuming wool products. If your merchants are advised that you prefer to wear a hat made of wool, and not one containing an infusion of lactic acid, which is an economy and a source of profit to the manufacturer, but of no advantage to you, they will insist on pure wool hats. The hat manufacturers feel they should be exempted from the law. Their use of this new substitute for wool, which has no advantage over wool, makes it imperative that they remain subject to this act.

There seems to be a mania among producers to cheapen the costs of their products by finding substitutes or replacements for proven raw materials of integrity. The economics are doubtful and the results to the consumer are generally unfortunate.

The remedy for the producer of the raw material is to tell his story to the consumer. That's what the wool grower must do. The people of this country still have an appreciation of intrinsic values in the things they buy, eat and wear. Oppose this ballyhoo of shoddy fashion, which emphasizes jimcracks and suave lines, with honest facts regarding the necessary, honest protective qualities of wool. If hat manufacturers want to use sour milk as a substitute for wool, that is their economic adventure, and may interest the milkman. But the shades of the old West should rise in ghostly rebellion against this desecration of a hallowed symbol, the Stetson five gallon hat!

Denver Wool Show

Two of the eight displays at the Wool Show sponsored by Merrion and Wilkins at the 1941 National Western Livestock Show in Denver. The exhibit of territory fleeces is shown at the left and that of sheep pelts at the right. The sheep pelts are graded as follows, commencing at the left: No. 1—Wool 3½ inches or longer; free from burrs and other foreign matter, slats in good condition; no black pelts; minimum weight 5½ pounds. No. 2—Wool 1½ to 2½ inches in length; free from excessive burrs, cuts and tears; longer wooled pelts with some burrs and cuts, and black pelts go in this grade. No. 3—Wool from ¾ to 1½ inches in length; free from excessive burrs, cuts and tears; longer wooled pelts with some burrs or cuts go in this grade. No. 4—Shearlings; wool under ¾ inch in length; slats must be in good condition, free from cuts and tears. No. 5—Pieces or badly torn pelts go in this grade; they must have sufficient wool to make them worth while to pull.

DURING recent years a number of excellent wool shows have been put on in western states. These exhibits are not only of interest and value to wool growers, but likewise attract the attention of the general public, and play a part in promoting wool consumption. The success of such shows is, of course, dependent upon the number and character of the fleeces shown by the growers, and shearing is the time when selections for the shows must be made.

An example of the advancement in recent wool exhibits is that of Merrion and Wilkins at the National Western Livestock Show held in Denver, January 11-18, 1941. Included in this show were:

(1) A display of fleeces which were entered for competition by various growers.

(2) A display of foreign fleeces secured from the Golden Gate Exposition.

(3) A display of manufactured woolen goods and articles, and samples of various grades and types of grease wool from which they were produced.

(4) A display of fleeces properly tied and prepared for marketing, and fleeces improperly handled.

(5) Bags of wool containing rings of tags and black fleeces and bags of wool from which tags and other off-grades had been eliminated.

(6) A display of wool goods and substitutes furnished by Julius Forstmann, Inc., and Thomas Menkel of Earl Newsom and Company.

(7) A display of wool products in the process of manufacture.

(8) A display of sheep pelts and products derived therefrom, including a very excellent exhibit of Electrified Colored Shearling Skins, furnished by the Tanners' Council of America, and the Miller Tanning Company of New York.

The champion fleece of three-eighths grade in the competitive show was exhibited by W. C. Ranson of Golden, Colorado, while the reserve champion fleece (fine grade) came from the Andrew Little flock, Boise, Idaho. In the class for fine wool, Andrew Little took first and fifth prizes, and W. S. Hansen of Collinston, Utah, second, third and fourth. Hansen also took first and second prizes in the half-blood class, with Mark Bradford of Spanish Fork, Utah, getting third and fourth prizes and Herbert Bolse of Lodge Grass, Montana, fifth.

In the three-eighths-blood grade, Ranson was first; Bradford second; Joseph Johnson of Evanston, Wyoming, third and fourth, and M. A. Johnson of the same place, fifth.

J. W. Matthews of Burley, Idaho, won first prize in the quarter-blood class; Bradford won second and fifth prizes; Tom Bell of Rupert, Idaho, third; and Harry Snyder of Billings, Montana, fourth.

First prize in the low quarter-blood grade went to James Laidlaw, Muldoon, Idaho; second to Bell; third to Bridger Valley Pool, Mountain View, Wyoming; fourth to W. W. Johnson, Robertson, Wyoming; and fifth to the Green River Livestock Company of Green River, Wyoming.

In the braid grade division, Hanson had first and third prizes; the Bridger Pool second; and the Deseret Livestock Company of Wasatch, Utah, fourth.

Wool Auctions in the United States

By James M. Coon
Cooperative Research and Service Division
Farm Credit Administration

An Address Before the 76th Annual Convention of the National Wool Growers Association, January 23, 1941

DURING the past year the Cooperative Research and Service Division of the Farm Credit Administration has been making an analysis and appraisal of different methods of marketing wool in the United States.

Many of you growers here today have assisted us materially in the conduct of this work. You have given us helpful suggestions both orally and through the written schedules which you have filled out and supplied to us. We welcome this opportunity to tell you how much we appreciate your cooperation and help in this work.

Your able secretary, Mr. Marshall, has asked me to discuss with you wool auctions in the United States. The statements which we will make here today with respect to wool auctions are based on our experience in observing the auctions in operation, in personal contacts made with wool growers over the country, and in analyzing the replies to our questionnaire received from nearly 1,500 growers in 11 western range states.

In the beginning let me say that we are not here in the interests of any particular firm or any particular group of growers. We are making this study for the general interest and benefit of all wool growers, and will discuss the favorable aspects of the auctions as well as their shortcomings as we view them.

Auction experience in this country is limited. Our present auctions had their start in 1934; with one exception each year since that time they have shown an increase in volume handled. The only other auctions of note were the government wool auctions following the last World War. The grower interest developing around the auction system, however, prompted us to include it in our study. Although wool auctions are comparatively new, growers have had a variety of experience in dealing with them. Let us now discuss a number of items concerning the operation of the auctions and present them in the order of importance to wool growers. Let us first consider competitive bidding.

Competitive Bidding

A study of the bidding practices and a comparison of bids with Boston quotations, as nearly as we were able to determine, indicated that competition at most of the sales has not been lacking. Although the topmakers and manufacturers have been greatly outnumbered in the ring by dealers and speculators, nevertheless it has been the bidding by these processors that has made the competition in most instances. Sometimes competitive bidding has been at a high pitch. At other times it has lagged. There have been instances, however, where it appeared that dealers outbid manufacturers. However, it is believed that in many cases the dealers had orders and were bidding for a particular mill. There is no question but that a considerable number of the leading buyers in the country have participated in the auctions.

Accusations have been made that the buyers were really not competing with each other. It is appreciated that it would be difficult to detect collusion on the part of bidders; however, so far as we have been able to determine, we have found no indication that this is taking place. It would seem that agreements as to how they should bid would be extremely difficult among 20 to 60 buyers wanting all types and grades of wools. For example, if topmakers were working together to hold down prices, it would seem that dealers and woolen mill buyers would certainly take advantage of the situation and bid in the wools. The probability that dealers would engage in collusion appears even less probable when topmakers and other manufacturers are in the ring.

The fact that in many instances one particular bidder has taken a very large quantity of wool at some of the auction sales has been extremely disturbing to some growers. This same situation might be true in any kind of a sale. Growers feel that there should be a larger number of high bidders. Probably they would have more confidence in auctions if they knew that more manufacturers were actively bidding for wool.

Do Auction Sales Affect Wool Price Structures?

Do auction sales affect wool prices? To answer this question we charted the Boston wool market quotations before, during, and after each auction sale to see what effect the auctions may have had, if any, on prices. Preliminary analyses show quite definitely that auctions reflected fairly well the Boston market condition—whether it was weak or strong—and that they had no particular effect on the wool price structure. In the majority of instances, it appears that the bids were at the top of the market. Many of the bids in the country auctions were above Boston parity; only a small percentage were below Boston parity. We did find that at some points the bids were considerably weaker than at other points and quite often certain grades were not bid on as strongly as others, and some bids were unduly out of line on the low side.

The comparatively small volume of wool going through a number of widely

scattered auctions is an important reason for their having little or no effect on the price structure. The volume of wool offered through auctions in the 11 western range states has not yet reached 10 per cent of the production in that area. Should this volume reach 20 or 25 per cent, Boston price quotations might be materially influenced.

Does Wool Sell on Merit Basis?

To answer this question it is necessary to appraise each individual clip that is offered. We have been able to check quite closely a fairly complete line of wools at various western points. The merits and faults of a clip plainly show when displayed with other clips, and it is reasonable to assume that bidding would find its proper level when buyers are earnest bidders. When the bidding becomes sluggish, as has often been the case, it becomes necessary for the grower to take advantage of his privilege of placing a reserve bid and even withdrawing his clip if necessary.

The sampling and displaying of the wool have brought forth considerable criticism from both growers and buyers, some of which may be justified. It appears that there can be substantial improvements in this respect and more thought given to sampling and displaying lots to be offered.

Sales by Private Treaty Following the Auction

The practice of allowing the high bidder on clips that did not sell to deal privately with the grower within 24 hours has come in for much criticism. At many of the sales by far the bulk of the wool that was sold was disposed of in this manner. Whether this practice has benefited the grower or not is difficult to determine. It seems not to have discouraged the buyers; on the other hand neither the grower nor bidder shows his full hand at the open auction, and it is possible if too much of the wool is sold by private treaty, it will defeat some of the purposes of the auctions. It is believed that in most instances of private treaty sales, the buyer raises his bid and the grower comes down a little on his ideas of value. Some growers have reported that very substantial raises in bids have been made following the open auction.

Do Mills Buy Direct?

One of the principal criticisms has been the lack of mill buying at the auctions. In discussing auction buying with certain manufacturers almost invariably they express a lukewarm attitude toward buying at the western auction sales. A few of the manufacturers were very outspoken against auctions. Others stated they would rather purchase wools from eastern warehouses from the old established firms that put the wool up according to manufacturers' needs. It is reported that manufacturers have made arrangements for local buyers or order buyers to buy wool for them at the auctions, these purchases to be made in the individual's own name.

Eastern Versus Western Auctions

One point on which growers appear to differ is whether auctions should be held in the eastern market centers or in the western producing areas. To date the experience, with one exception, has been with western auctions. It is probably true, as has been demonstrated during 1940, that there will be more registered bidders at eastern auctions. More manufacturers will have an opportunity to place their bids. It is also true that a fair number of manufacturers and dealers have gone West, some of them buying through order buyers. By far the predominant leaning of the growers is toward western auctions, as the growers believe that the buyers will always go where the wool is offered for sale. Buyers have gone west for their needs in the past, and these growers believe that the situation will not change in the future. A possible solution to the problem may be to have some auctions in the West and others in the eastern market centers. There may be a place for both eastern and western auctions. Time will probably settle the question.

Auction Commission Charges

Many growers feel that the cost of putting wool through the auctions is too high. It is undoubtedly true in some instances where large clips are offered that costs are too high. On very small clips the charges may be low. In comparing the costs with other systems of marketing, the present charges do not seem to be out of line. In checking the costs of grower auctions in Australia, J. F. Walker says in his bulletin published in June, 1929, that "it is generally said among growers in Australia that it requires approximately 10 per cent of the value of the clip to sell it, exclusive of shearing and delivery to railroad." The cost of marketing, exclusive of freight, for Australian wools in 1927 was from 3 to 3½ cents a pound on wool valued at 40 cents a grease pound.

In order to insure that proper care be given the wool at an auction, it would seem that the present charge for domestic auctions generally would not be out of line. As more experience is gained with auctions, costs of handling various sized clips can be more accurately determined and charges standardized accordingly. Such a sliding scale of charges for size of clip and for service rendered would seem more equitable than a flat charge.

Selling Dates

To determine a satisfactory selling date is a perennial problem not only for the grower but for every type of marketing setup. The cooperative marketing associations probably have been able to meet the problem better than other systems, because they have had the opportunity to sell throughout the selling season whenever there is a demand. It would seem that, if volume permitted, the grower could decide for himself whether he would offer his wool at a late spring auction, a midsummer, or an early fall auction, and have the further possibility of a midwinter auction. Many who have studied the auction system have suggested this kind of a series. This should give the grower ample selection in the time to sell. It is noteworthy that the Australian auctions usually are carried on over a 6- to 9-months' period.

Educational Value of Wool Auctions

After observing the auctions first-hand and talking with a large number of growers and noting the comments on their schedules, one must give credit to the auctions for their educational features. Through them more growers are learning something about the grade and shrinkage of their clip. They are able to compare their clip with those of their neighbors and with clips of other sections and other states. Prices are being made public and growers can compare prices received and learn why one clip sells for more money than another.

After contacting a number of wool grower leaders relative to advantages and disadvantages of auctions, we found that a most popular expression in favor of auctions was that "open buying and bidding puts buyer and seller on an equal basis." This, of course, is true as long as the grower can determine his shrinkage and grade and arrive at a fair idea of the proper valuation of his clip. Unless the grower knows his grade and shrinkage he still is at a disadvantage even at the auctions, as he cannot value his clip and place the proper reserve bid under which he will not sell.

Do Not Be Oversold

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Social workers will protest such a classification and advance some high-sounding excuse to explain the shortcomings of these incompetents. But there is just one excuse: These folks lack the pep to make a living for themselves or their families under any conditions anywhere in the world. Had all of them been highly educated and given a fortune at the start of life, they would be back in the W.P.A. gang in a few years.

In every community we find these ne'er-do-wells. About ten per cent of our population falls into that class. We all know them by their first names. This trait of general worthlessness is hereditary, for we see whole families afflicted in like manner. I know of cases where the grandparent, the sons and grandsons all are professional reliefers. We had these folks in good times. In 1929 they could work one or two days per week and make all the money they had an ambition to spend. A family of four of them get by nicely on $20 per month. Probably 75 per cent of the so-called Okies and Arkies of "Grapes of Wrath" were these ne'er-do-wells. They are always rained out, hailed out, blown out or kicked out of their last stopping place. Were it not for this class, the writers of books and magazines and moving pictures would go out of business. They exist in every strata of society from the top to the bottom. They were made by the Almighty, whether by mistake or design, I am not advised. They are mentioned in the Old Testament and the Saturday Evening Post, and on the relief rolls of every township in America. Up until 1936 they rarely voted, for neither party had theretofore done anything for them. Millions of them started voting in 1936, and since that date they have had a majority in both houses of Congress.

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Rapid Rise of Frozen Food Lockers

THE remarkable growth in the frozen-food industry in the last 10 years has made more than 1,000,000 frozen-food lockers available today to farm and city housewives, the Farm Credit Administration reported on January 20, 1941. Approximately 3,200 locker plants with an average capacity of 330 lockers, are now in operation.

Three fourths of the lockers now in service are being used by farm families. States leading in the number of locker plants are Iowa, Washington, Minnesota, and Wisconsin, all of which are predominately rural, it is pointed out. Rapid expansion is taking place in some of the southern states, especially Texas, Tennessee, Mississippi, and Alabama.

scattered auctions is an important reason for their having little or no effect on the price structure. The volume of wool offered through auctions in the 11 western range states has not yet reached 10 per cent of the production in that area. Should this volume reach 20 or 25 per cent, Boston price quotations might be materially influenced.

Does Wool Sell on Merit Basis?

To answer this question it is necessary to appraise each individual clip that is offered. We have been able to check quite closely a fairly complete line of wools at various western points. The merits and faults of a clip plainly show when displayed with other clips, and it is reasonable to assume that bidding would find its proper level when buyers are earnest bidders. When the bidding becomes sluggish, as has often been the case, it becomes necessary for the grower to take advantage of his privilege of placing a reserve bid and even withdrawing his clip if necessary.

The sampling and displaying of the wool have brought forth considerable criticism from both growers and buyers, some of which may be justified. It appears that there can be substantial improvements in this respect and more thought given to sampling and displaying lots to be offered.

Sales by Private Treaty Following the Auction

The practice of allowing the high bidder on clips that did not sell to deal privately with the grower within 24 hours has come in for much criticism. At many of the sales by far the bulk of the wool that was sold was disposed of in this manner. Whether this practice has benefited the grower or not is difficult to determine. It seems not to have discouraged the buyers; on the other hand neither the grower nor bidder shows his full hand at the open auction, and it is possible if too much of the wool is sold by private treaty, it will defeat some of the purposes of the auctions. It is believed that in most instances of private treaty sales, the buyer raises his bid and the grower comes down a little on his ideas of value. Some growers have reported that very substantial raises in bids have been made following the open auction.

Do Mills Buy Direct?

One of the principal criticisms has been the lack of mill buying at the auctions. In discussing auction buying with certain manufacturers almost invariably they express a lukewarm attitude toward buying at the western auction sales. A few of the manufacturers were very outspoken against auctions. Others stated they would rather purchase wools from eastern warehouses from the old established firms that put the wool up according to manufacturers' needs. It is reported that manufacturers have made arrangements for local buyers or order buyers to buy wool for them at the auctions, these purchases to be made in the individual's own name.

Eastern Versus Western Auctions

One point on which growers appear to differ is whether auctions should be held in the eastern market centers or in the western producing areas. To date the experience, with one exception, has been with western auctions. It is probably true, as has been demonstrated during 1940, that there will be more registered bidders at eastern auctions. More manufacturers will have an opportunity to place their bids. It is also true that a fair number of manufacturers and dealers have gone West, some of them buying through order buyers. By far the predominant leaning of the growers is toward western auctions, as the growers believe that the buyers will always go where the wool is offered for sale. Buyers have gone west for their needs in the past, and these growers believe that the situation will not change in the future. A possible solution to the problem may be to have some auctions in the West and others in the eastern market centers. There may be a place for both eastern and western auctions. Time will probably settle the question.

Auction Commission Charges

Many growers feel that the cost of putting wool through the auctions is too high. It is undoubtedly true in some instances where large clips are offered that costs are too high. On very small clips the charges may be low. In comparing the costs with other systems of marketing, the present charges do not seem to be out of line. In checking the costs of grower auctions in Australia, J. F. Walker says in his bulletin published in June, 1929, that "it is generally said among growers in Australia that it requires approximately 10 per cent of the value of the clip to sell it, exclusive of shearing and delivery to railroad." The cost of marketing, exclusive of freight, for Australian wools in 1927 was from 3 to 3½ cents a pound on wool valued at 40 cents a grease pound.

In order to insure that proper care be given the wool at an auction, it would seem that the present charge for domestic auctions generally would not be out of line. As more experience is gained with auctions, costs of handling various sized clips can be more accurately determined and charges standardized accordingly. Such a sliding scale of charges for size of clip and for service rendered would seem more equitable than a flat charge.

Selling Dates

To determine a satisfactory selling date is a perennial problem not only for the grower but for every type of marketing setup. The cooperative marketing associations probably have been able to meet the problem better than other systems, because they have had the opportunity to sell throughout the selling season whenever there is a demand. It would seem that, if volume permitted, the grower could decide for himself whether he would offer his wool at a late spring auction, a midsummer, or an early fall auction, and have the further possibility of a midwinter auction. Many who have studied the auction system have suggested this kind of a series. This should give the grower ample selection in the time to sell. It is noteworthy that the Australian auctions usually are carried on over a 6- to 9-months' period.

Educational Value of Wool Auctions

After observing the auctions first-hand and talking with a large number of growers and noting the comments on their schedules, one must give credit to the auctions for their educational features. Through them more growers are learning something about the grade and shrinkage of their clip. They are able to compare their clip with those of their neighbors and with clips of other sections and other states. Prices are being made public and growers can compare prices received and learn why one clip sells for more money than another.

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The 1941 Wool Fund

Receipts to March 1, 1941

BY STATES:		BY DEALERS:	
Arizona	$ 8.00	Adams & Leland, Inc.	$ 52.45
California	24.00	Hallowell, Jones & Donald	18.35
Colorado	40.20	Munro, Kincaid, Edgehill	189.45
Idaho	137.95	Producers Wool & Mohair Co.	25.00
Montana	8.60	National Wool Trade Association	5,000.00
New Mexico	15.65		
Oregon	18.35	BY STATE ASSOCIATIONS:	
North Dakota	14.95	California	22.20
South Dakota	14.05	Texas	4.50
Texas	29.50	Wyoming	258.90
Utah	22.70	By Individuals	25.50
Wyoming	262.40		
National Wool Trade Association	5,000.00		
	$5,596.35		$5,596.35

Birth of American Wool Council

THE organization of the American Wool Council for the purpose of protecting and increasing American markets for wool through research and experiments, and a simultaneous campaign of education and promotion, was announced in New York, March 8, by C. B. Wardlaw, president of the National Wool Growers Association. Membership in the Council includes wool growers, wool dealers, members of agricultural organizations and their auxiliaries, representatives of educational institutions, and of consumer and civic organizations. This membership will be extended later to include wool textile manufacturers.

State chapters of the Council are now being organized in some 15 western states and in Texas, Mr. Wardlaw announced, and it is hoped to establish similar chapters throughout the entire country. At the outset, operations of the Council will be financed by the wool growers of the country, through an assessment on each bag of wool sold.

Activities of the organization will be under the direction of F. Eugene Ackerman, merchandising counsel, of New York, who has had a long experience in the public and trade relations field and in promoting the sale of textiles. The Council's first undertaking will be the publication within a short time of a booklet outlining the advantages to consumers of the new Wool Products Labeling Act, and defining the responsibilities which it places on manufacturers and merchants. This booklet will be widely distributed to consumers and to the trade.

Incorporators of the American Wool Council include C. B. Wardlaw of Del Rio, Texas, Roscoe C. Rich of Burley, Idaho and Fred R. Marshall, of Salt Lake City, respectively president, honorary president and secretary of the National Wool Growers Association; J. B. Wilson of McKinley, Wyoming, secretary of the Wyoming Wool Growers Association; C. J. Fawcett, general manager of the National Wool Marketing Corporation of Boston; and Sylvan Gotshall of Weil, Gotshall and Manges, New York.

In announcing the organization of the Council, Mr. Wardlaw declared that the per capita civilian consumption of wool in the United States has shown a steady decrease in recent years due to the unrevealed use of substitute fibers in products sold as wool.

"The development and use of increasingly large quantities of substitutes for wool has resulted in the adulteration of wool products to a point where as much, if not more substitute fibers than new wool are being used in the manufacture of products which reach the consumer as wool," he stated.

"The art of imitating the appearance of woolens has been so perfected that it is impossible even for experts to determine, by texture, touch or other visible factors, the composition of the fabrics.

"The Wool Products Labeling Act, which becomes effective on July 14 and which requires disclosure of all the fibers used in products sold as wool, will remedy many of the evils of the industry if it is properly enforced. To make the law effective, however, it is necessary to educate the public as to the protection it affords them. This will be one of the first functions of the Council. In this undertaking it will seek to enlist the support of wool textile manufacturers, merchants, and the consuming public in all parts of the country.

"The Council will seek also to increase American markets for wool by supporting trade research investigations and experiments, and by encouraging the extension of textile education in schools and colleges.

"The United States is the second largest wool growing country in the world, and wool is one of the nation's most essential agricultural products. Its exclusive protective properties in clothing make it a necessity for 85 per cent of our population for from six to nine months of the year. Wool is a basically essential commodity in our program of national defense. Only the existence of a vast supply of immediately available domestic wool made it possible for our military forces to uniform the country's great peacetime army of 1,000,000 men. Within a period of less than a year consumption of wool for military purposes alone has amounted to 250,000,000 pounds, or more than 50 per cent of our average annual production. Despite this fact, wool consumption for all purposes for the year 1940 is approximately the same as for 1939, due largely to the constantly increasing use of substitute fibers for wool."

Members of the Advisory Committee of the Council, who will assist in directing its program, will include:

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R. C. Rich, chairman, Burley, Idaho; Fred R. Brenckman, National Grange, Washington, D. C.; Mac Hoke, Pendleton, Oregon; A. E. Lawson, Yakima, Washington; W. C. Gilbert, Dillon, Montana, H. J. Devereaux, Rapid City, South Dakota; J. B. Wilson, McKinley, Wyoming; L. W. Clough, Denver, Colorado; Floyd W. Lee, San Mateo, New Mexico; Russell Wilkins, Denver, Colorado; R. A. Ward, Portland, Oregon; Mrs. A. S. Boyd, Baker, Oregon; Mrs. Emory C. Smith, Salt Lake City, Utah; Mrs. H. C. Noelke, San Angelo, Texas; Roger Gillis, Del Rio, Texas; Fred Earwood, Sonora, Texas; Jerrie W. Lee, Phoenix, Arizona; W. P. Wing, San Francisco, California; Gordon Griswold, Elko, Nevada; Don Clyde, Heber City, Utah; Mrs. Robert Naylor, Emmett, Idaho; George L. Anderson, Boston, Massachusetts; C. J. Fawcett, Boston, Massachusetts; Mrs. Ralph I. Thompson, Heppner, Oregon; Mrs. L. R. Ingersoll, Rifle, Colorado; Mrs. Willie Whitehead, Del Rio, Texas; Mrs. J. T. Baker, Ft. Stockton, Texas; H. J. King, Ira Samuelson, Mrs. P. J. Quealy, John A. Reed, K. H. Hadsell, J. A. Hill, of Wyoming.

10 Cents Per Bag

TEN cents per bag (five cents in Texas and eastern New Mexico where small bags are used; also five cents in the fleece-wool states) was the amount growers agreed to assess themselves to build up the Wool Promotion Fund in 1941. Such action was taken at the 76th annual convention of the National Wool Growers Association in Spokane, Washington, on January 23, 1941.

Last year under a 5-cent assessment, $13,364.82 was collected by wool dealers from the growers and remitted to the National Association. In addition to making the collections, dealers, through the National Wool Trade Association, contributed $5,000 to the fund. But $18,000 is not sufficient to get even much of a start on the big problem of maintaining a proper defense against the rapid advance of synthetic fibers upon the textile markets.

Assuredly, no grower will deny the need for wool promotion, and only the negligent will fail to make sure that the firm or individual who buys or takes their wool on consignment understands that the 10-cent deduction is to be made from their accounts.

All of the state organizations have endorsed this program, and many of them are working actively to advance the collections. In a recent issue of the California Wool Grower, the following statement appeared over the names of President Kenneth Sexton, Vice President Arburua, and Secretary Wing of the California Association:

Wool Promotion is world wide in scope. It tells the virtues of wool. It keeps pounding home day in and day out why wearing wool is essential for proper health. The demand for wool and its wide use today shows that telling the truth about wool is important to you. Greater demand for wool is creating a living price for the Wool Grower.

Contribute your share to the Wool Promotion Fund. Only 10 cents per bag on bags of wool you ship to market.

The Wool Buyers graciously have agreed at our request to collect the ten cents per bag contribution for wool promotion when you ship your wool, deducting the small amunt requested from your account sales. In addition the Wool Trade, themselves, have generously contributed.

Tell your neighbor about this worthwhile, world-wide program of wool promotion and how he, too, may help.

If everyone helps—makes his contribution and gets his neighbor to do the same—a real piece of promotion work can be done. The loyal cooperation of wool growers in the national defense program is acknowledged by all; the same spirit should prompt united support of their own defense program.

Wool Firm Sponsors Contest in Wool Collections

MUNRO, Kincaid, Edgehill, Inc., the firm that stood first in the total amount of collections made during the year 1940 from individual growers for the Wool Promotion Fund, is offfering a $100 cash prize to its fieldman who has the highest percentage of collections during the present year.

The announcement covering the contest, which was sent to all members of the Munro, Kincaid, Edgehill organization, follows:

We are enthusiastic backers of the National Wool Growers' Wool Promotion campaign. The January issue of the National's magazine put us at the top of the list for money turned over to the Association. We heartily approve the idea, and want your help to put over the collections for 1941.

Accordingly, we will give a cash prize of $100 to our fieldman who has the highest percentage of collections—not the most dollars, but the highest percentage. Thus all sections, large or small, have an equal chance.

We think your last year's efforts were very good in most sections and will be again this year, and we offer this $100 cash prize just to make a little fun within the organization.

Remember, the grower's contribution is 10 cents per bag this year, except on the short bags in the Southwest, which are 5 cents. The contest is open to all of our organization except those working out of the Boston office.

We are to be the judges, and in case of a tie the prize will be $100 to each.

The contest will close September 1, based on all collections made (or pledged, in the case of consignments) prior to that date, and the award will be made as soon thereafter as we can get out the figures.

Let's see if we cannot double our last year's collections.

MUNRO, KINCAID, EDGEHILL, INC.

Contributors to Wool Fund During February

IDAHO

T. C. Bacon	Denton Moulton
George A. Briggs	Peter Minhondo
Ward Baker	E. W. Murdoch
George W. Dunn	J. H. McCullough
A. M. Davis	Murdoch Bros.
William Enget	E. Dean Orme
Furniss & Siddoway	Thomas Powell
Goerge Hill	J. C. Siddoway
L. R. Jenkins	G. W. Seely
Oliver F. Lee	H. R. Tucker
Henry McCullock	Charles Thomsen

TEXAS

H. L. Allen	
S. N. Allen & Son	Y. O. Ranch

WYOMING

Archie Alexander	Alonzo C. Melton
J. A. Allison	Poston Live Stock Co.
Wm. Bowie	T. B. Pleak
Cronin Sheep Co.	Thomas Pfister & Sons
Earl Camblin	John C. Ringdahl
Continental Sheep Co.	L. W. Roberts
Eugene Combs	Rambler Sheep Co.
Paul John Dodd	Snyder Bros.
Peter J. Etcheverry	Swinbank Ranch
Alfred Feraud	Charles B. Schweighart
Home Sheep Co.	Salmon Bros.
Jens Hansen	Carl O. Thomsen
James M. Kidd	Chas. Wells
Lewis C. Mills	Marvin Young

The Wool Market on March 11

By C. J. Fawcett

General Manager, National Wool Marketing Corporation

THE value of wool has further strengthened during the month of February, and contracting has progressed at a rapid rate. It is now estimated that as much as 75 million pounds of the 1941 clip is under contract. Montana has been the hot spot, and it is estimated that close to 20 million pounds of the 30-million-pound clip of Montana is under contract. The exceptional condition of the 1940 Montana clip, which is declared by some to have been the best in 14 years, has without doubt, had something to do with the sharp demand for wool from this state. The more important factor, however, is the particular desirability of Montana wool for the manufacture of serges, such as the Army uniforms require.

The climax of the contracting was reached about a week ago, when a prominent New Jersey manufacturer contracted for some two million pounds of original bag, Texas fine wool at 40 cents to the grower. This set a price, landed Boston, that the dealers do not feel justified in following at the moment. Therefore, contracting has practically stopped at this date. This does not necessarily mean that wool is worth any less, just that enough wool has been purchased by Summer Street to go a long way in the manufacture of government orders that will be placed in the next few days. There is only one thing that prompts dealers to contract on the sheep's back, and that is the thought that the wool is then costing them less than it will at shearing time or reversing the equation that it will be worth more in the summer and fall months than it is now.

There has been an added incentive to secure domestic wool as quickly as possible this year, for as stated in a former letter, and elsewhere in this issue, the government will place, the first three weeks in March, orders for ten million yards of serge (18-ounce), ten million yards of 10½-ounce shirting (20 per cent cotton), three million yards of 32-ounce overcoating and two million Army blankets, as well as for a tremendous amount of underwear, gloves, socks, etc. It is estimated that close to 100 million pounds of grease wool will be required to manufacture the orders that will be placed for military purposes by the government the first three weeks in March.

It has been stated by Quartermaster General Corbin that no more orders for military purposes will be placed until the regular military appropriation is available at the beginning of the new fiscal year, July 1. The amount of wool required to manufacture the orders to be placed during the first three weeks of March is equivalent to about 27 per cent of the total shorn clip of the United States. It has been our contention, now that the 1941 clip will soon be available, that the rule requiring the use of domestic wool in government contracts should be restored, and Mr. Marshall is now in Washington seeking to accomplish this. If this, in the judgment of the War Department, is not practical, we believe there should be a stated price differential that should be recognized in favor of bidders using domestic wool, as compared with those bidding on the use of foreign wool. While it is our desire to cooperate with the defense department in every way, we believe in American markets for American products, insofar as it is practical. General Corbin has stated that a differential in favor of bids based on the use of domestic wool will be made, but fails to state just what that differential will be. In the last contracts placed, there was a slight advantage given to bids based on domestic wool, averaging probably around 5 per cent, and it is expected that a similar differential will again be recognized.

Government orders and the contracting of the 1941 clip, with a view to filling these orders, have largely overshadowed the market. The interest of the civilian, in the whole program, is rather obscure at the moment. In fact, some of the larger manufacturing concerns have stated they are not particularly interested in securing further civilian orders. It is quite evident that the civilian business will be a very important factor before the summer is over, for this type of business has been pushed aside and delayed until there has developed a very great potential buying power by the consuming public. As more and more people are employed at higher and higher wages, the buying power of the consuming public will be greatly enhanced. It is expected that the full development of the increased purchasing power of the consuming public will not be reached until August 1 of this year. This is a factor that cannot be overlooked in any intelligent analysis of the wool marketing situation.

A statistical report just released by the Boston Wool Trade Association, shows only 50 million pounds of unsold foreign wool in the hands of American dealers, and 26 million pounds of this wool is still retained at the point of origin. There is practically no domestic wool available in Boston. This indicates a sold-up situation in the Boston wool trade, probably without parallel. It is thought, however, that manufacturers have purchased considerable foreign wool in both Australia and South America for direct shipment to their mills. We have no reliable data as to the amount so held by the manufacturers. The 50 million pounds of unsold wool in the hands of the American dealers is divided about equally between fine and medium grades. It should be borne in mind that England controls about 90 per cent of the world's output of fine wool, exclusive of

the United States. South America is the only major wool-producing country of the world, outside of the United States, whose product is not controlled by the British Government, and an upset price established. This leads up to the point that the price of fine wool would be largely governed by the British Government if unlimited transportation facilities were available. The fact is, however, that shipments from Australia are becoming more difficult and uncertain all the time. Orders placed for Australian wool by United States merchants are taken with an undetermined delivery date. Such uncertainties do not fit in well with a manufacturer's program.

We are consuming wool at the rate of about 80 million pounds of grease wool equivalent per month and producing it at the rate of 35 million pounds. All indications point to the greatest wool consumption of record during the year 1941. This develops a necessity for the use of a very heavy volume of foreign wool during the coming season. The desire of South America to sell her wool clip in the United States acts as a brake to a wool market that might otherwise get clear out of hand, as it did in World War No. 1. We do not anticipate any such fabulous values, but there would seem to be room for some further expansion in value during the coming season for spot wool. The administration has long been desirous of seeing agricultural products command higher prices and wool is one commodity that seems to be susceptible to somewhat higher prices.

There is some doubt about Australia's ability to furnish us wool of the proper grade and type, even at upset prices, for there was less wool in Australia on November 1, 1940, than there was on November 1, 1939. This scouts the idea that world surpluses of wool are being accumulated. Recent releases from the Central Australian Wool Committee indicate the possibility that certain grades of fine wool may be exhausted before another clip is available. It is pointed out that the British Government, as well as the United States Government, is now using fine wool in the manufacture of soldiers' uniforms, and this is the very grade most required for civilian purposes. South America produces a very limited quantity of fine wool of this type. For this reason, the position of fine wool seems to be secure, indeed.

Trading on Summer Street has been largely confined to foreign wools, so far as spot business is concerned, for there is little domestic wool with which to do business, with the exception of early shorn fat-sheep wool.

It is believed that a very great portion of the wool of the 1941 clip contracted has been sold to prospective bidders on government orders upon a clean basis, for June and July delivery, shrinkage to be agreed upon after the wool is graded in the lofts of the wool merchants. The fact that as much as 75 million pounds of the 1941 clip has already been purchased by dealers and the bulk of it turned to manufacturers, places the remainder of the 1941 clip in an exceedingly strong position, if intelligent marketing is employed. It cannot be expected that dealers will proceed and lift the whole coming clip and carry it through the consumption period. They have now acquired, for the most part, what they estimate to be the choicest, lightest shrinking clips, but all the wool will be needed at very satisfactory prices before the year is closed. The situation seems to be constantly strengthening, and wool growers have a very bright outlook for many months.

Market quotations on domestic wool are largely confined to June and July deliveries and may be quoted about as follows: Fine and fine medium grades, $1 to $1.05, half blood 98 cents up to $1, with three-eighths hovering around 88 to 90 cents. The spread between the value of three-eighths and half blood is greater than normal. This is due, we believe, to the competition of South American 56s, which is a comparable grade to our three-eighths and now available at about 85 to 88 cents, duty paid, landed Boston. Late sales of territory fine wool for June and July delivery have been fully up to importing parity or in other words, equal to the upset price named by the British Government, plus the duty. We quote below, a table showing grease prices and shrinkages furnished by the Bureau of Agricultural Economics that will be of assistance to growers in ascertaining the market value of particular clips.

Domestic Wool Quotations — Week Ending Friday, March 7, 1941

GRADED TERRITORY WOOLS

	Scoured Basis Boston Prices	Grease Equivalents Based Upon Arbitrary Shrinkage Percentages (1)					
		Shrink and Grease Equivalent		Shrink and Grease Equivalent		Shrink and Grease Equivalent	
Fine Combing (Staple)	$1.07-1.10	(63%)	$.40- .41	(65%)	$.37- .39	(68%)	$.34- .36
Fine French Combing	1.00-1.05	(64%)	.36- .38	(66%)	.34- .36	(69%)	.31- .33
Fine Clothing	.95-1.00	(65%)	.33- .35	(68%)	.30- .32	(71%)	.28- .29
½ Blood Combing (Staple)	.98-1.02	(58%)	.41- .43	(60%)	.39- .41	(64%)	.35- .37
½ Blood French Combing	.95- .97	(59%)	.39- .40	(61%)	.37- .38	(65%)	.33- .34
½ Blood Clothing	.90- .93	(60%)	.36- .37	(62%)	.34- .35	(66%)	.31- .32
⅜ Blood Combing	.85- .88	(53%)	.40- .41	(55%)	.38- .40	(58%)	.36- .37
⅜ Blood Clothing	.80- .83	(54%)	.37- .38	(56%)	.35- .37	(59%)	.33- .34
¼ Blood Combing	.82- .85	(50%)	.41- .43	(52%)	.39- .41	(55%)	.37- .38
Low ¼ Blood	.78- .81	(45%)	.43- .45	(47%)	.41- .43	(50%)	.39- .41
Common and Braid	.75- .77	(44%)	.42- .43	(46%)	.41- .42	(49%)	.38- .39

(1) In order to present scoured basis prices in terms of greasy wools, scoured basis market prices have been converted to grease basis equivalents. Conversions have been made for various shrinkages representative of light, average, and heavy shrinking wools for the different length groups quoted.

New Mexico's 38th Convention

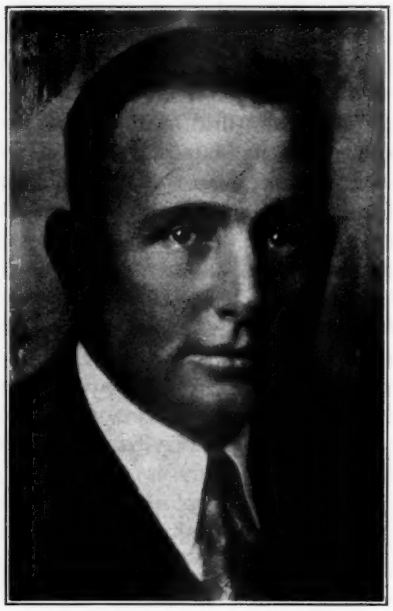
FOUR swiftly moving open sessions; hours spent in committee work; record breaking attendance; close attention to every address; a happily managed entertainment program and a notable wool show: these were the factors which combined to make the 38th annual convention of the New Mexico Wool Growers Association, in Albuquerque, February 6 and 7, not only the largest, but the most useful meeting of sheep growers in the association's long history.

Floyd W. Lee, San Mateo, was elected unanimously to serve his 12th successive year as association president. Miss Isabel Benson was reelected secretary. J. H. Clements, Jr., of Roswell, was elected vice president. Albuquerque was the unanimous choice of the convention for next year's meeting; dates to be set by the president and executive committee.

A banquet, at which Col. Edward N. Wentworth, Chicago, presided, was the outstanding entertainment feature of the convention. It was attended by a crowd that taxed the seating capacity of the Hilton Hotel ballroom, where all convention sessions were held.

Closely rivaling the banquet in the entertainment program was the noonday barbecue, managed by Louis A. McRae and Tom Snell, held in the gymnasium of Washington Junior High School, nearly five hundred people being served within an hour.

Never before in the records of the association have convention sessions been more largely attended. Never before have convention addresses received closer attention. The good program was carefully planned by Miss Benson, the secretary, so as to consume not more than two hours at each of the four sessions. Only the final business session exceeded the time limit and even this final session, usually slimly attended by delegates scattering for home, practically filled the convention hall as final addresses were made, reports of ten convention committees read and adopted and election and other association business transacted.



Floyd W. Lee, President
New Mexico Wool Growers Association

Aside from memorable addresses by a number of outstanding men associated with the livestock industry, the work of the convention was summarized in the extensive general resolutions and the reports of nine standing committees.

Committee Reports

The general resolutions committee, headed by Clarence Iden of Las Vegas as chairman, presented a comprehensive report which said "this association continues its protest vigorously against any and all reciprocal trade treaties with foreign countries that shall tend to affect or reduce the tariff protection on wool," and urged New Mexico's representatives in Congress "to protest unnecessary use of foreign wools in the national defense program."

This report also:

Asked the president of the association to appoint a special committee with authority to act for the association in handling freight rate matters.

Recommended legislation empowering the state land commissioner to "extend the time for payment of expiring state land purchase contracts when in his judgment extension of a contract will be for the best interest of the state and the holder of a contract."

Asked continued cooperation of railroads in New Mexico in establishing reasonable all-rail rates for wool to the Atlantic seaboard, having in mind suspension of coastwise shipping facilities through the Gulf of Mexico.

Opposed "all measures in Congress or before the legislature of New Mexico * * * which * * * will add to the expense of railroad operation and in turn result in increased freight rates."

Asked state legislature and Governor to direct a memorial to Congress and the President "protesting against any move which will permit importation of dressed meats or live animals from countries wherein foot-and-mouth disease exists."

Expressed belief that Colorado sugar beet industry had been unduly discriminated against under the present method of curtailment of production and that such curtailment is against the interests of New Mexico sheepmen.

Approved efforts of New Mexico Game Protective Association "to stop depredations committed by campers, picnickers, hunters and fishermen on privately owned and leased lands," and supported legislation to that end.

Grazing

The committee on public lands, headed by Senator H. O. Bursum reported, and the convention adopted a resolution passed by the New Mexico Cattle Growers Association last autumn, asking the appointment of a committee of six to represent the wool growers in any investigation of public land matters by the special committee of the United States Senate. They recommended that in giving testimony before this committee, the general policies heretofore adopted for the benefit of the livestock industry be followed, specifically endorsing the Taylor Grazing Act and its administration, and recommending (1) that control of all federal grazing lands recently acquired be merged in one agency controlled by

basic law; (2) that "the principles of private ownership of land in fee simple absolute should remain so, and that purchase of federal land by individuals should be provided for in any future land plan or law, but only at a price measured in terms of carrying capacity, and that the interest of the permitted user, if any, be adequately safeguarded"; (3) that "the federal government continue to recognize she owes a major responsibility toward local government in those states in which she has land, and therefore any income from such lands should be shared"; and (2) that the extensive purchase of privately owned land by the federal government be opposed as it may disrupt the fiscal basis of those local governments relying on the general property tax.

Amendment of the Taylor Act was asked to permit appeal to a federal court from decisions of the Secretary of the Interior, and approval given to the bill introduced by Senator Thomas of Utah, authorizing the Grazing Service to perform conservation work on non-federal lands.

The report of the committee on forest grazing, presented by M. B. Otero, as chairman, largely reiterated the declaration of policy laid down in the report of the public lands committee. It added an endorsement of the McCarran Senate Bill No. 3, providing that 20 per cent of all grazing receipts during each fiscal year be made available for range improvements; asked that the Forest Service "regulate the distribution of, and herding of all classes of livestock," and opposed "the policy of the Forest Service in holding permittees guilty and liable for damage and costs without arrest, conviction, or court procedure in cases where fires are started accidentally by the employees of the permittees."

Marketing

The lamb marketing committee, with A. S. MacArthur as chairman, recommended that greater effort be made by packers and commission men to discontinue one-price alley buying.

A larger use of lamb in the diet of the nation's armed forces was asked, and the report also urged that attention be given to the food value of mutton.

The report of the wool marketing committee, headed by M. N. Mikesell, put special emphasis upon factors under the growers' control which would create a better market for their wool. It advocated a vigorous campaign to improve the packing and preparing of wools for market; a program of culling of breeding ewes based on length of fiber and actual fleece weights, and the careful selection of rams for long staple of wool and good body conformation.

The report also asked that the present tariffs on wool be maintained, "that insofar as possible domestic wools exclusively be used in the manufacture of all wool products purchased by the government, and that the President of the United States be constrained not to exercise his war emergency power to admit foreign wools duty free."

The wool promotion program of the National Wool Growers Association was endorsed.

Lamb and Wool Week

The week of the convention was proclaimed by Governor Miles as Lamb and Wool Week, the second one to be sponsored by the New Mexico Association, and all interests united in 100 per cent fashion to make it an outstanding success. Newspapers ran special articles, and local markets put on some very attractive displays, and distributed about 10,000 illustrated lamb recipe booklets furnished by the National Live Stock and Meat Board.

State college extension specialists gave a series of broadcasts on both lamb and wool.

The wool show was an excellent one. It comprised the competitive display of New Mexico fleeces, about double in number to those shown a year ago; a display showing the results of culling and breeding from the state college wool laboratory; the Merrion and Wilkins exhibit of top domestic and foreign fleeces; displays of Persian wool pelts, Karakul fleeces, and mohair and its products; and exhibits from the National Wool Marketing Corporation and the Southwestern Sheep Breeding Laboratory and Experiment Station at Fort Wingate.—The New Mexico Stockman.

Meat Supplies

A MATERIAL broadening in the field of purchasing domestic meat supplies for the armed forces was announced February 22 by Donald M. Nelson, Director, Division of Purchases, Office of Production Management, following a conference with representatives of the American National Livestock Association.

This program provides broad support for the entire domestic meat market, Mr. Nelson said, through the new development of an all-round emergency ration, with its proportionate share of meat products, which opens an entire new field in the preparation of canned meat supplies for the armed forces.

It was recognized, Mr. Nelson said, by the representatives of the livestock producers that due to this development, which requires all of the domestic canned meat facilities, that some purchase of South American canned beef is necessary to provide immediately canned meat requirements for use by the armed forces in the field. Purchases will be made in such a way as to minimize any disturbance in the domestic market.

The Army, Mr. Nelson explained, is also increasing substantially its use of boneless meat products as a space saving device through packaging in frozen form. This, he said, makes it more adaptable to rapid handling in a fast-moving, mechanized army. This, in turn, has enabled the use of a broader range of carcasses which were formerly limited to a very narrow classification by Army specifications.

It is interesting to note, he said, that the producers were impressed by the fact that the Army is stressing the increasing importance of meat in a well-balanced ration, as indicated in the current requirements, which, on a basis of per man per day exceed by more than 60 per cent per capita consumption of meat in the United States during 1940.

The program, Mr. Nelson said, was developed through the cooperation of the Army and Navy, and the Division of Purchases has had the benefit of the advice and suggestions of the livestock producers.

Sheep Numbers

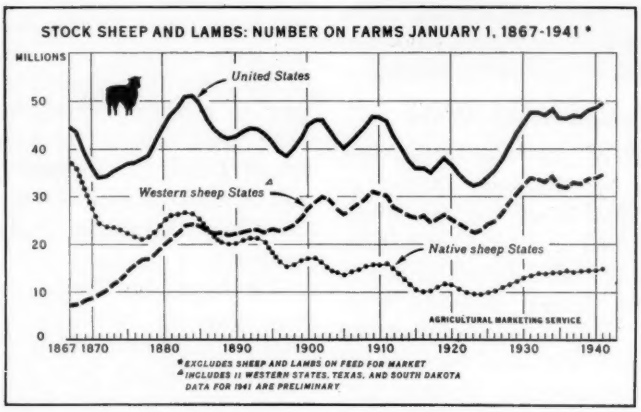
DURING 1940 the number of stock sheep increased by 2 per cent, or one million head. Twelve North Central States gained half a million head, or 4 per cent. These 12 states now have 12,451,000 head as compared to their 1930-39 average of 10,896,000 head. During the year Kansas gained 7 per cent; South Dakota, 16 per cent; Minnesota and North Dakota, 10 per cent each. This is the region in which the Soil Conservation Program is most effective.

The eleven western states, not including Texas, showed no change in total numbers. Montana, Arizona and Washington gained slightly, but Colorado, New Mexico and Oregon showed some loss. California gained 1 per cent.

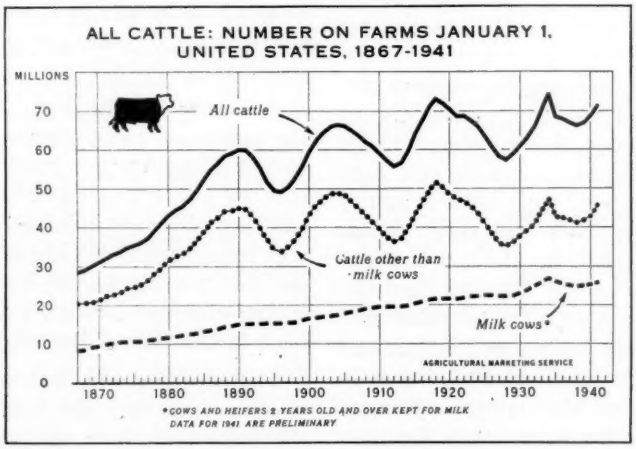
Texas gained another half million in 1940, or 5 per cent. The state now has 20 per cent of all stock sheep in the United States.

In regard to cattle, the report says:

The number of all cattle on January 1 reached 71,666,000 head which was 2,865,000 head, or about 4 per cent larger than a year earlier, and 4,625,000 head or about 7 per cent above the 10-year (1930-1939) average. Of the increase of 2,865,000 head, 777,000 head was in milk cows and young milk stock and 2,088,000 head in cattle kept principally for beef. While numbers were up in nearly all states the largest increases were in the West North Central States.



The number of stock sheep on farms, January 1, 1941, totaled 49,656,000 head, more than for any year since 1884.



Cattle numbers increased at an accelerated rate in 1940, and numbers on farms January 1, 1941, totaled 71,666,000 head, a figure that has been exceeded in only three other years.

STOCK SHEEP IN THE UNITED STATES JANUARY 1, 1940 AND 1941

State and Div.	Stock Sheep: Average 1930-39	1940	1941 (Prelim.) Number	% 1940
	(Thousands)			Pct.
Maine	63	44	42	95
New Hampshire	14	9	9	100
Vermont	32	20	20	100
Massachusetts	10	8	8	100
Rhode Island	2	2	2	100
Connecticut	8	7	6	86
New York	390	332	335	101
New Jersey	7	6	6	100
Pennsylvania	463	404	400	99
North Atlantic	989	832	828	100
Ohio	2,160	2,166	2,166	100
Indiana	729	700	721	103
Illinois	648	668	681	102
Michigan	1,034	1,043	991	95
Wisconsin	410	388	388	100
Minnesota	935	1,030	1,133	110
Iowa	1,128	1,314	1,380	105
Missouri	1,198	1,500	1,500	100
North Dakota	813	851	936	110
South Dakota	1,193	1,439	1,675	116
Nebraska	278	362	366	101
Kansas	371	480	514	107
North Central	10,896	11,941	12,451	104
Delaware	3	3	3	100
Maryland	94	74	70	95
Virginia	446	379	379	100
West Virginia	592	504	489	97
North Carolina	76	50	50	100
South Carolina	13	10	8	80
Georgia	34	34	32	94
Florida	41	37	35	95
South Atlantic	1,300	1,091	1,066	98
Kentucky	1,019	1,189	1,165	98
Tennessee	393	410	410	100
Alabama	50	48	48	100
Mississippi	84	75	72	96
Arkansas	68	75	76	101
Louisiana	263	282	288	102
Oklahoma	179	268	255	95
Texas	7,733	9,838	10,330	105
South Central	9,788	12,185	12,644	104
Montana	3,528	3,462	3,566	103
Idaho	2,112	1,804	1,804	100
Wyoming	3,556	3,614	3,614	100
Colorado	1,724	1,752	1,717	98
New Mexico	2,549	2,292	2,181	95
Arizona	943	740	778	105
Utah	2,548	2,329	2,329	100
Nevada	940	776	776	100
Washington	676	615	627	102
Oregon	2,348	1,900	1,881	99
California	3,251	3,360	3,394	101
Western	24,172	22,644	22,667	100
United States	47,145	48,693	49,656	102

Lamb Market Trends and Prospects

EVENTS on the lamb market front shaped rather favorably for growers and finishers during February. The rise in prices to the best level for the month since 1930 reflected increased demand, not diminished supply.

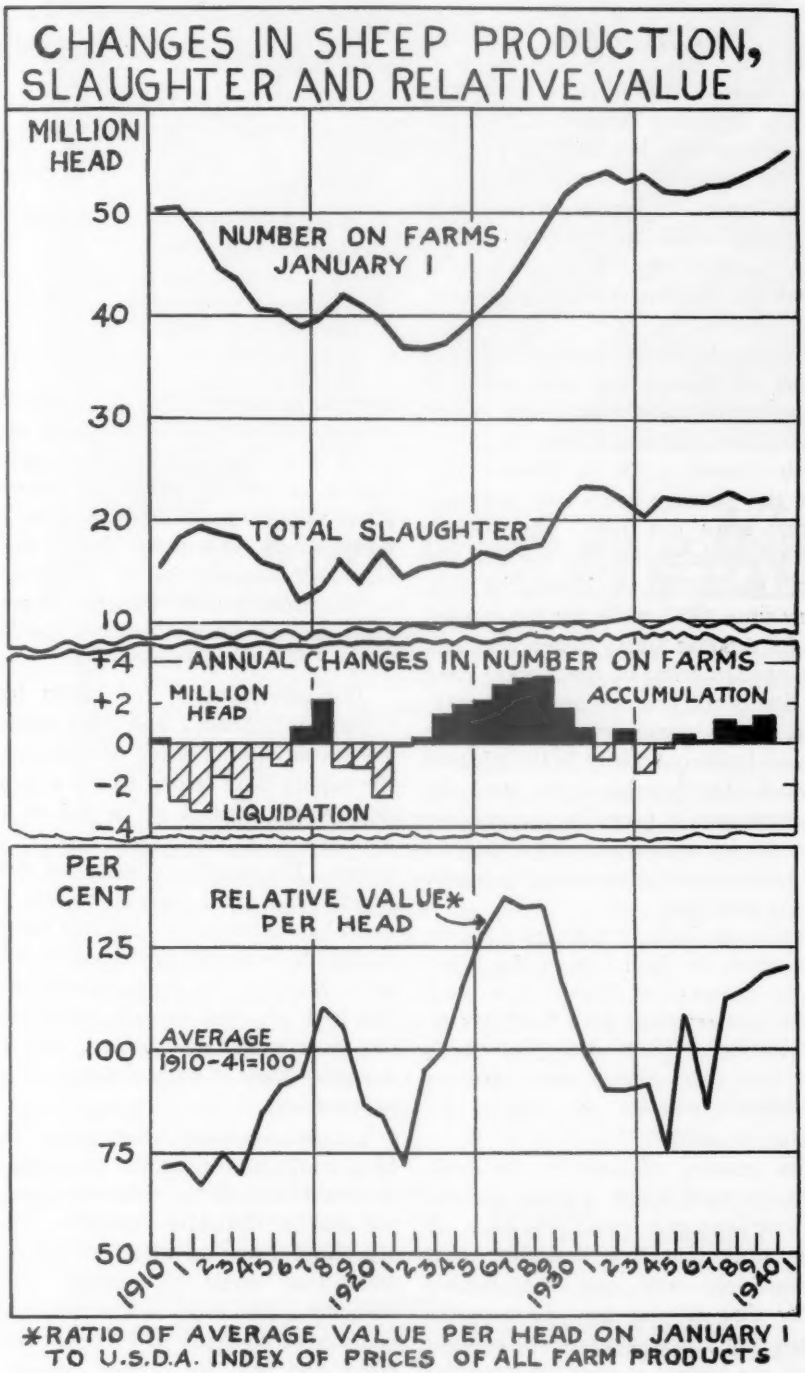
Inspected slaughter at 27 centers in the first three weeks of the month was 18 per cent larger than last year, raising the possibility that a new high February record will be set, although the daily rate was much the same as in January. Dressed lamb prices showed some irregularity, partly in sympathy with pork and beef, but averaged about the same as in January and were well above February, 1940. Pelt values advanced 50 cents or more per 100 pounds of live lamb. The combined value of carcass and pelt appears to have advanced more than prices on the hoof. Late in the month, packers' margins seemed to be a little wider than usual.

Looking forward, large supplies for the time of year and relatively broad demand probably will continue during the next two or three months. The year started with 6 per cent more lambs on feed than a year earlier and the largest number on record. Although slaughter since January 1 has been about 8 per cent over last year, or fully in line with the supply, not all of the increase in lambs on feed at the start of the year has gone into the market hopper. Then, attractive feeding margins have encouraged finishers to pick up more thin lambs for late winter feeding than last year.

It seems probable ,therefore, that the number still in feed lots on March 1 is larger than a year ago, perhaps the largest on record for that date. Colorado and western Nebraska have possibly 10 per cent fewer than in 1940 but this decrease probably is more than made up elsewhere.

The tail end of the fed crop is likely to meet more competition from California and Arizona springers than a year ago. Numbers of stock sheep in these states are slightly larger than in

(Continued on page 43)



Flocks have been expanded when sheep values were high and reduced when values were low compared with the general level of prices of farm products.

The Lamb Markets

Chicago

RECEIPTS of ovine stock at Chicago in February totaled 177,542 in comparison with 199,000 last year. It was the smallest February supply in over 50 years. Shipments were 41,567 as against 46,652 last year and 61,000 in 1939. With the exception of 1937, it was the smallest outward movement since 1915.

A better demand for mutton products during the month was reflected in a strong active trade most of the month with prices definitely on the rise. Lambs scored a 25- to 50-cent gain over the January prices and averaged highest since last July. The average cost of fat lambs at the close of the month was $10.90, the highest for February since 1930, while the top reached $11.25, a dollar higher than a year ago. The upward trend of the market since the first of the year has been due partly to a better consuming demand for dressed lamb and partly to the advance in wool. The increase in the wool clip per lamb was a factor in pushing the price up, for wool is at a new high level and pelts are rated considerably higher than a year ago.

While the bulk of Chicago's supply came from the feed lots of the West, nearby farmers contributed their usual quota, and reported good feeding conditions and a good margin of profit over first cost. Lambs and yearlings comprised about 95 per cent of the month's receipts.

The general advance in the lamb market carried along a good demand for yearlings and ewes. In fact all ovine stock that had desirable meat quality sold well and considerably higher than a year ago. Late in the month choice light-weight ewes brought $6.60, the highest in over ten years for stock of that class. Many ewes changed hands at $5.75 to $6.50 and yearling wethers were cashed in at $9 to $9.50 for the light-weights, with plainer and heavier sorts at $8.50 to $9.

For the first two months of this year receipts of ovine stock at 20 primary markets show a slight decrease compared with last year, but the slaughter figures at points east of the Missouri River indicate some increase. The Department of Agriculture shows an increase in slaughter of 20 per cent at 27 inspected points. Packers report a good demand for the product, particularly at eastern markets.

The movement of fed lambs from Colorado, Nebraska, and other western states continues in heavy volume, but as the supply is in strong hands it is under enough control to be fed to the market only as the current demand requires. The supply is being cut down rapidly but local buyers believe the available shipments will be large enough in March to supply the demand fairly well. Many of the lambs have been in the feed lots long enough to accumulate more weight than packers like, and naturally there is some discount on the overweights.

Locally, not many feeder lambs have been available during the past month, for practically all the lambs are coming fat and in slaughter condition. Outside buyers are on the alert for anything that would be suitable. Some shearing lambs have moved out to the country to be deprived of their winter coats and held for higher slaughter price, but the volume is not large. These lambs are quoted at $9.25 to $10, and strictly feeder lambs at $8.25 to $9.25. The government reports 119,000 feeder lambs shipped to seven states in January against 99,000 a year ago. The unofficial figures for February show a smaller total, as fewer feeder lambs were available.

The big packers report about a normal supply of lambs in California this year, and anticipate the movement marketward will start about the first of April. This will follow closely the waning supply of lambs east of the mountains and west of the Missouri River. It is reported that the California crop has already been contracted for largely at $10 to $11. The recent heavy rainfall on the Pacific Coast insures good pastures, and packer buyers report the lambs in unusually good condition.

The government reports an estimated total of 49,656,000 stock sheep in the United States as of January 1, which is 2 per cent more than last year and the largest number in over 50 years. In addition 6,224,000 lambs were reported on feed at that date, slightly more than in 1932 and the largest since the first of this century. The present slaughter of lambs at federally inspected points is running about 300,000 per week. During the spring months, when the markets depend mainly on the California crop, the total slaughter usually declines in proportion to receipts.

Local prophets predict that there will be a good lamb market all through the spring and summer season. This opinion is predicated mainly on the assumption that the broader demand for meat on account of the war preparation will give mutton products a substantial boost. These symptoms have already been verified since the first of the year,

Prices and Slaughter This Year and Last

Week Ended:	Mar. 1, 1941	Mar. 2, 1940
Slaughter at 27 Centers	274,321	289,486
CHICAGO AVERAGE LIVE LAMB PRICES		
Good and Choice	$11.00	$ 9.88
Medium and Good	10.32	9.38
NEW YORK AVERAGE WESTERN DRESSED LAMB PRICES		
Choice—30-40 pounds	19.60	19.10
Good—30-40 pounds	18.75	18.10
Medium—All weights	16.50	16.60

though the preparedness program has hardly started.

Wool is expected to help materially in the upward trend of the market, for the extra call for clothing and blankets for the Army will create an abnormal demand. Wool merchants say it will take half the domestic supply to cover the Army requirement, which is one good reason for the sheep grower to feel optimistic.

Frank E. Moore

Denver

RECEIPTS in February totaled 77,281 head, as compared to 121,908 during the same month a year ago, or a decrease of 44,000. Most of this decrease, 40,000 head, was in Colorado shipments, showing a tendency on the part of feeders to hold back shipments until the corn belt heavy run is partly out of the way, and also bringing out the fact that there are far fewer lambs on feed in the territory than a year ago.

From Colorado a total of 59,000 head appeared on the market in February, compared to 99,000 a year ago; Wyoming sent in 7,000 head or a thousand fewer; and Utah shipped only 4,300 or 5,500 fewer. There were 5,000 head received from Kansas last month, which was practically all increase, and smaller numbers came from Texas, New Mexico, Nebraska, and Idaho.

While the eleven western states had 2,269,000 sheep and lambs on feed January 1, as reported by the U. S. Department of Agriculture, which was only 19,000 head short of the number last year, Colorado estimates of 835,000 on feed this year were 90,000 short of the total on hand January a year ago, and Wyoming was 10,000 short of the 300,000 fed last year. Most of the other western states reported increases.

The twelve north central states had 3,561,000 sheep and lambs on feed January 1 or 57 per cent of the total number being fed in the United States. Iowa had over a sixth of the corn belt total, or 617,000 head. In the other sections Texas had 290,000 on feed January 1, New York 54,000, and Oklahoma 50,000.

A Year's Work in a Week

FOR months they loaf in the sun—empty packing sheds beside seldom-used tracks. You wonder why they were built there among the fields or groves.

Then one day you feel life begin to stir. For miles around, long strings of refrigerator cars congregate on every siding. A regiment of pickers, graders, packers gathers from nowhere. Mountains of crates and baskets appear overnight. For in the fields another crop is ripe, and for a few brief days that obscure crossroads may be a major source of a mighty nation's supply of some particular fruit or vegetable.

Elsewhere endless fields of grain flood waiting trains with sudden Niagaras of golden harvest.

No other method of transportation could possibly provide for the swift, orderly marketing of America's crops. To take care of these seasonal shipments, the railroads maintain thousands of miles of track, special types of freight cars and endless other facilities that are used primarily for peak crop movements. Operating at all seasons over their own vast network of steel highways, the railroads link producer to consumer with a fast, dependable, low-cost, low-loss system of distribution.

No other kind of transport is big enough and flexible enough to handle the varied transportation needs of the nation's agriculture, industry and commerce.

• • •

NOW TRAVEL ON CREDIT

America's railroads offer new, simple installment payment plan for trips and tours.

SEE YOUR LOCAL TICKET AGENT

P.S. PERFECT SHIPPING

A national campaign each APRIL to promote good packing, secure loading and careful handling of ALL shipments—sponsored by Shippers Advisory Boards. Avoid loss and damage. We can't afford to waste our national resources.

ASSOCIATION OF AMERICAN RAILROADS, WASHINGTON, D. C.

The total of 6,224,000 on feed in the United States on January 1 was 368,000 more than a year ago and the largest number ever on feed in this country, being 4,000 more than the previous high year of 1932.

February prices on fed lambs closed 75 cents per hundred above the January close. Early in the month Colorado lambs sold at $10.10@10.35 FPR for weights 100 pounds down and at $9.85@10.35 for heavies. On a flat basis they cleared at $9.65@10.25 for weights under 100 pounds and at $9.65@10 for weights above 100 pounds.

It was not until Tuesday, February 18, that any appreciable rise occurred, when prices jumped to a top of $10.65 FPR and $10.50 flat for weights 100 pounds down. An increase in receipts of lambs weighing over 100 pounds began about that time and sold largely at $10.35@10.65 FPR and at $10.15@10.40 flat. On February 19 weights up to 108 pounds sold at $10.50 FPR, only 15 cents under the top; and weights up to 105 pounds brought $10.35 flat, or 15 cents under the $10.50 flat top for 90-94 pound lambs.

On Thursday, February 20, lambs weighing 106-109 pounds sold at $10.35 FPR compared to a top of $10.85 FPR for 92-pounders. However, while the 92-pound lambs brought 50 cents per hundred more than the 109-pound lambs, the heavier lambs grossed $1.30 per head more than the lighter weights, or $11.28 per head for the heavies compared to $9.98 for the 92-pounders.

On Monday, March 3, two cars of 115-116-pound Eaton and Ft. Collins fed lambs sold at $10 FPR, or 50 cents per hundred under the top of $10.50 FPR for 98-pound lambs. The 116-pound lambs, however, grossed $1.30 per head more than the 98-pounders.

A few cars of Wyoming lambs sold early in February at $9.90@10, averaging 90-101 pounds, and later in the month at $10.40@10.65 for averages of 89-106 pounds, including 92-96-pound lambs from Saratoga and Thermopolis, Wyoming, at the top of $10.65—all sales on a flat basis.

Carload fat ewes were taken at mostly $5.25@5.75 flat, and one load at $5.60 FPR. Better grade trucked-in fat ewes sold at $5@5.50, with common and less desirable kinds at $3@4.50.

Numerous carloads of feeder and shearing lambs went out during February at mostly $10.15@10.35 flat, although two cars of Saratoga, Wyoming, shearers were taken on February 27 up to $10.60 flat, averaging 87 pounds.

Over 19,000 head of feeding and shearing lambs were sold on and through the market during February. Colorado points took the largest number, or 6,000 head, Nebraska 5,000, Kansas 1,500, and a few other eastern states smaller numbers.

Interior Iowa slaughterers bought 6,500 fat lambs at Denver during the month, or about the same number as a year ago, and Atlantic Coast packers took 13,000 head.

Local slaughter of fat sheep and lambs during February totaled over 18,000.

R. C. Albright

STEWART 2-Man Portable Shearer

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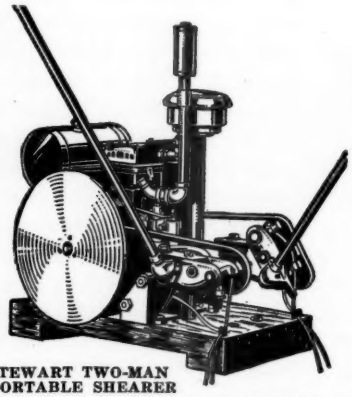

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Single unit outfit can be installed in the trunk of an automobile and operated as illustrated to right.

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Elimination of cones, clutches, etc., and development of new type engine make possible the low price of this new Stewart Two-Man Portable Shearer—$50 below the price of any comparable equipment. Lowest upkeep cost of any shearing gear on the market. See Catalog GE-2. Shipping weight, 250 pounds. Price.....$175.00 f.o.b. Salt Lake City.

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SHEEPMEN'S BOOKS FOR SALE

National Wool Growers Association

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Omaha

HIGHER allowances for wool on the backs of lambs bought, good order demand, the fact that receipts seldom were so large as to be really burdensome, and strong competition from buyers of shearing lambs, all fitted into a picture which spelled a 50- to 60-cent advance in fat lamb prices during February. Feeders and shearing lambs sold higher, while fat sheep and breeder ewes easily held the market strength gained during January.

Total receipts for the month were about 110,000, practically the same as the total for February, 1940. Practically all the lambs were fed stock, mainly from western and local feed lots. Shorn lamb numbers were seasonally small, but were larger than came a year earlier, as more producers had cashed in on the favorable market for wool.

Top for the month was $11, paid on the 20th. Most of the lambs in the final session sold in the range of $10.50@10.75. A few native spring lambs, the first of the season, arrived on the 27th, but at $11 commanded no premium since Easter was fully six weeks in the future.

Feeder and shearing lambs advanced fully 25 cents for the month, and at higher prices the month's outgo to the country was the largest in several years. Favor of buyers leaned more and more toward shearing lambs, but any desirable unfinished lambs sold readily.

Buyers of bred ewes and of fat ewes could have used more at almost any time, but their attitude generally was that prices of late January were, from their standpoint, high enough. Fat ewes reached $6.25, but most sales did not go above $6. Western bred ewes sold up to $6.50, and most of these were short-toothed.

Most indications add up to markets that should, during the next few weeks, continue to favor the producer. Effect of Lent on demand should be more than offset by increased buying power as the defense program moves further toward high gear. Government buying for woolen goods is one more prop for present values. Feeder buyers undoubtedly will continue to offer strong com-

petition to fat lamb buyers on anything with possibilities for further feeding or shearing.

Profits made from farm flocks during the last two years, and prospects that there will be plenty of pasture during the coming summer, are two factors that suggest continued good demand for bred ewes. Fat ewes should improve their position as the weeks move along, for there is little to suggest that there are enough to meet demand.

Ray Burley

Kansas City

FEBRUARY saw the establishment of three highs on the Kansas City sheep and lamb market: On the nineteenth the fed lamb top reached $10.85, the highest February top here in eleven years; the largest receipts for any one day since February, 1939, were chalked up February 24; and fed yearling wethers bounded to a new peak figure for the season when they cashed at $9.75 late in the month.

Moderate weather and a favorable price schedule brought out liberal runs throughout most of the month. The bulk of the receipts originated in western Kansas where the marketing season of wheat pasture lambs is nearing a close. Fed shipments from New Mexico, Texas and Colorado appeared in increased numbers.

Killers here demonstrated their eagerness to purchase volume and their orders were heavy enough to prevent them from registering any more than single-day price declines. The strength of the market is shown by the fact that on nearly half of the month's marketing periods the inside figure on the good-to-choice quotation was $10.25 or better for fed lambs. Considerable shearer and shipper demand was evident and on several sessions killers were crowded to fill orders, as were shippers.

The month opened with the bulk of the fed arrivals cashing at $9.75 to $10. On over half of the month's market sessions the top price was $10.50 or better. The third and fourth weeks saw the price range of $10.50 to $10.75 take the bulk of the fed carlot lambs. Natives frequently cashed at carlot tops.

Numerous carlots of lambs weighing 100 to 112 pounds were received and lambs of these weights, with few exceptions, registered top prices. These lambs were mostly ones that had received setbacks during the feeding season because of weather conditions and attained a larger growth than usual before the fattening process had been completed. Some, of course, were lambs held back so as not to compete with wheat-pasture lambs.

Carlot fat lambs are 50 to 75 cents higher than the January close; truck-in lambs 75 cents to $1 up; yearlings, twos and wethers all 50 cents higher; fat ewes steady to a quarter higher. Texas wooled offerings made the month's top of $10.85, numerous Kansas, Colorado and Texas shipments bringing $10.75 freely. Shearing lambs were up to $10.15 and found a dependable outlet. Fall-shorn offerings sold at $10; fresh clippers from New Mexico made $9.25. Native truck-ins closed at $10.75. Fed yearlings sold up to $9.75 with two-year-olds at $8.75.

Vernon C. Hoyt

St. Joseph

SHEEP receipts for February were 95,605 in comparison with 135,023 in January and 78,016 in February a year ago. Of the month's total, 26,262 were from Kansas and were largely from wheat fields. Colorado feed lots furnished 17,436, Nebraska 9,612, and Texas and New Mexico 7,522. There was a fairly good tone to the lamb market on most days and closing prices were around 50 cents higher. The high point of the month was on the 20th, when choice fed lambs from Nebraska and Colorado sold up to $11. The closing top was $10.75, when weights up to 104 pounds brought that price, and 107-pounders, $10.50. Fed natives sold at $10.50 on the close, and clipped lambs were quoted $8.75@9.75. A few lots of genuine spring lambs arrived during the last week, and sold mostly at $11.50. Ewes and old wethers closed around 25 cents higher, while yearlings and twos are about 50 cents up.

H. H. Madden

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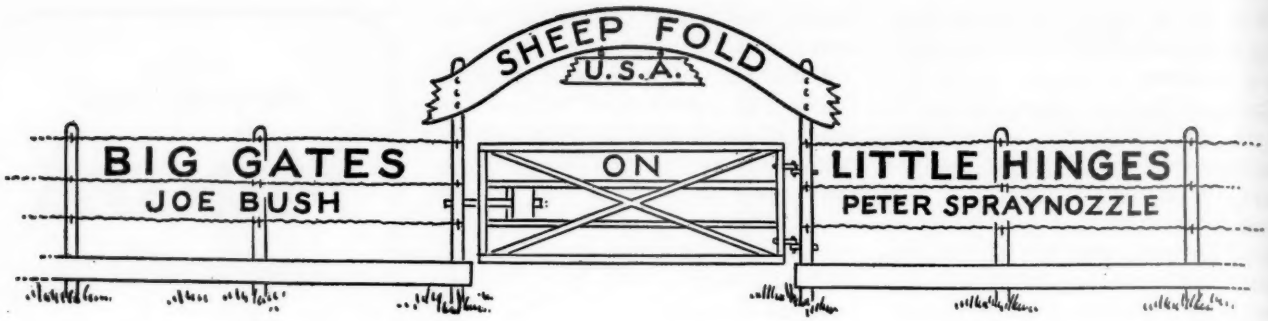

WHEREVER we go, Joe Bush und me—conventions, legislative and city and county commission meetings—some one is always concerned as to "why boys leave home"; everyone, that is except Youth itself. So if I were to give this column a name, it would be "Why Boys Leave Home."

Youth (boys und girls) always have, always will leave home. Why? To better their condition, to improve their opportunities. And those states that have made the most of, have given Youth its greatest opportunities, welcomed the new blood, have made progress far ahead of the states where Age has held on to the jobs Age held yesterday; for new seed und new blood find opportunities the old and the inbred don't seem to see.

The story is told in Gen. 28 how Jacob left home, went to Padan-aram, met Rachel, saw his opportunity; found Laban, the great flockmaster, long on girls und short on sheep herders; made his deal with Laban, und both Jacob und Laban profited greatly because of Jacob's leaving home to find a land of new opportunities, und because Laban saw that Jacob would bring new ideas into his business as a flockmaster.

Then, there is the story of Saul. He might have stayed at home, divided with his brothers the substance of his Father Kish. But Saul lit out from home with faith in himself, and a branding iron that he might run on any "slick ears" that he found; met Samuel the prophet just at the time the Israelites wanted a king; und because he was "tall, dark und handsome," found himself annointed, clothed in fine linen and purple, und proclaimed King of the Jews, owner of 10 per cent of all their substance; made of their sons and daughters men und maid servants, und drafted from among their finest his men of war. Saul like Jacob made good by leaving home.

Had David been content to remain at home und mind the sheep of his Father Jesse, he would never have become the Great Shepherd King of Israel und the father of a long line of kings.

The elders of the City of Nazareth, I reckon, were worried because of the lack of opportunities for their youth, too, but one of their number, a Carpenter, said to the elders: "A prophet is not without honor save in his country"; shook the dust of His home town from His feet, and set out on His own. That was the Man of Galilee, who needs no introduction from me.

Und so we come, after the passage of the years, to some of the young men of our own country. Marcus Whitman might have been content to remain in his native New York; Brigham Young in his native Vermont; but they elected to carry the flag of their country und their faith, und plant them on the western frontier. To show their appreciation, the Oregon country, now the states of Oregon und Washington, has commemorated the coming of Marcus Whitman with a college named in his honor, und a monument to his memory has been erected at Walla Walla.

So, too, have the people of the intermountain country, of which Utah is the center, paid tribute to Brigham Young with a monument und a college erected und dedicated to his memory. Both might have stayed at home, but both elected to venture, und the West is grateful for the pioneer spirit that answered the call of the West.

So it was vid Lewis und Clark, Buffalo Bill, Jim Bridger, James G. Hill—all might have been content to remain where they were born, but the West would have been different; maybe better, maybe worse, but different. Each left the mark of a great personality on the West, the land of their dreams. Their elders may have pointed out that "a rolling stone gathers no moss"; but it does acquire polish; so they raised the dust on new trails into the West and laid the rocks of solid streets on yesterday's untrod grass.

To go places, to do things, to climb the heights, or sink out of sight—that has been the prerogative of the youth of yesterday und today as it will be tomorrow. The progressive youth of all the ages has no desire to lean on the dead kin of a previous generation.

Joe Bush says those of today should look out for today (the only day those of today will be held accountable for), teach youth by precept und example to care for the aged, the afflicted, the homeless, having in mind Him who said, "That which ye have done unto the least of these, my brother"; should guard well the health, educate the youth of each generation, for youth will take over tomorrow and do things that the generation of today is only dreaming of. It's the way of the world. Und here I quote Matt. 11:25: "Because thou hast hid these things from the wise and the prudent and revealed them unto babes."

Peter Spraynozzle

With the Women's Auxiliaries

Material for this department should be sent to the National Press Correspondent, Mrs. Emory C. Smith, 1636 Princeton Avenue, Salt Lake City, Utah.

Resolutions Committee

IN the February issue of this magazine, names of members of the various National committees were given. At that time, the Resolutions Committee roster was not complete and now appears as follows: Mrs. W. A. Roberts, Yakima, Washington, chairwoman; Mrs. J. R. Eliason, Salt Lake City, Utah; Mrs. H. C. Noelke, San Angelo, Texas; Mrs. John Reed, Kemmerer, Wyoming; Mrs. Fred Trenkel, Ontario, Oregon; Mrs. Donald MacPherson, Boise, Idaho; Mrs. Elery Burford, Fruita, Colorado.

Promotion Work

FROM time to time it is proposed to print on these pages, reports of the activities of the various committees of the National Auxiliary. The first of these reports appears this month and is a report of the Promotion Committee, of which Mrs. Emory C. Smith is chairwoman, and the following are members: Mrs. J. T. Baker, Fort Stockton, Texas; Mrs. L. R. Ingersoll, Rifle, Colorado; Mrs. A. S. Boyd, Baker, Oregon; Mrs. W. A. McGuffie, Yakima, Washington; Mrs. Angelo Katseanes, Blackfoot, Idaho; and Mrs. Bryon Wilson, McKinley, Wyoming.

This committee was appointed by President Mrs. Ralph I. Thompson, following the national convention in January, and a tentative outline of a suggested program made up. This program includes projects that have been tried out successfully by different groups in other years as well as new ideas suggested by our National President; by Mr. F. Eugene Ackerman, public relations counsel of New York; and by our committee. It is not intended that every chapter shall carry out all the suggestions outlined in the program; rather that from this outline they may select as many of the suggestions as they are able to carry out with their particular facilities and conditions.

In order that these suggestions may be available to all the groups they are given below:

Tentative Outline of Promotion Committee Activities

1. Each State President should see to it that she has a competent person in charge of wool and lamb promotion. This work may be handled by one chairwoman or two (one for wool and one for lamb) if deemed necessary.
2. The State Promotion Committee Chairwoman and her committee should see that their state carries out a constructive program during the year. This program to be most effective must be planned well ahead of time.
3. The following are some suggested plans for Wool and Lamb Promotion. Special emphasis is asked on Nos. A and B, which should be undertaken by every state.
   - A. Search leading magazine for number of advertisements on wool and lamb and rayon.
     1. It is suggested that scrap books be kept of clipped advertisements and at the end of the year a tabulation made showing approximate space used in each magazine for lamb ads and wool ads in relation to rayon ads, in addition to the number of times they appeared.
   - B. Contact all women's clubs and ask them to make provision on their year's program for at least one speaker on the subject of the Wool Products Labeling Act; telling what it is for, where to look for the labels, what to do if the labels are not found, what the different terms on the labels mean, etc. Women must be educated to look for these labels if they are to do any good.
   - C. Watch newspapers, magazines, radio advertising, for any deceptive advertising and take it up with advertisers and Federal Trade Commission.
   - D. Work with Parent-Teachers Associations and retail merchants in an effort to have better materials put into children's wool clothing. At present the most inferior fabrics are made up into this class of clothing.
   - E. Continue work with 4-H Clubs.
     1. Prizes in fat-lamb contests.
     2. Prizes in lamb-cooking contests.
     3. Prizes in wool-sewing contests.
   - F. Continue giving prizes for essay contests on both wool and lamb in high schools and universities.
   - G. Distribute lamb recipe booklets to groups outside wool industry.
   - H. Use lamb stickers on all correspondence.
   - I. Continue use of radio for advertising.
   - J. Continue use of fashion shows.
   - K. Continue use of lamb in menus wherever possible to acquaint more people with its advantages and appeal.
   - L. Distribute match books with slogan "Eat More Lamb—Wear More Wool" printed on them.

Mrs. Emory C. Smith, Chairwoman,
Promotion Committee National
Wool Growers Auxiliary,
1636 Princeton Avenue,
Salt Lake City, Utah

MY FAVORITE LAMB RECIPE

"LAMB-BURGER" is a trade mark copyrighted by the members of the Washington Wool Growers Auxiliary. Now, women all over the world are serving this famous food. The recipe for one of the most popular Lamb-Burger dishes is given below. We hope to be able to present other favorite lamb recipes each month.

LAMB-BURGER LOAF

Washington Wool Growers Auxiliary

3 lbs. lamb-burger
1 cup bread crumbs
1 onion chopped fine
1 pint milk
1 teaspoon salt
2 eggs
1 or 2 tablespoons chopped green pepper

Season to taste with pepper and salt. Mold into loaf and put into roaster. On top put 3 or 4 rings of green pepper. After searing for 15 minutes pour a can of tomato soup over and finish baking about 45 minutes. Very good without tomato if so desired.

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State Auxiliary Work

COLORADO

SINCE organizing last summer, the Auxiliary to the Colorado Wool Growers Association has been very active, both in securing new members for their organization and putting over projects to further the use of wool and lamb.

So far the Colorado Auxiliary does not have any local chapters but the state president, Mrs. L. R. Ingersoll, of Rifle, has been energetically going about the business of creating interest in the work of the auxiliary so that it should be only a short time before smaller groups will be functioning.

During November the auxiliary met at Rifle, at which time a luncheon, business meeting, and style show were held. During the business meeting it was voted to tie all Christmas packages with wool yarn, which created quite a sensation as all packages so wrapped were very unusual and beautiful. From all parts of Colorado, 91 ladies came to attend the luncheon. The lambs served at this luncheon were given by Ellory Berferd, A. Marshall, Bill Anderson, and J. Perry Olsen.

The highly successful style show of woolen costumes was presented by J. C. Penney Company of Rifle and Glenwood Springs, and the Hollywood Shop.

Eight new members joined the auxiliary at this meeting.

Mrs. Louis Visintainer, Secretary

UTAH

Salt Lake City Chapter

THE regular monthly meeting of the Salt Lake City Auxiliary was held February 10, at the home of Mrs. Sylvester Broadbent, with Mrs. I. H. Jacob, Mrs. Arthur Adams, and Mrs. Arthur A. Callister, assisting hostesses. A lovely tray luncheon was served preceding the business meeting.

The speaker for the afternoon was Mr. Raymond C. Wilson, vice president of the First National Bank, whose subject was "Utah and Our Industries."

Mrs. Emory C. Smith, who attended

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the national convention at Spokane as national press correspondent, gave a brief report of the convention.

Names of three members of the Nominating Committee were presented and voted upon.

Mrs. Henry Moss, vice president, presided at the meeting in the absence of Mrs. Wright, who was ill.

On February 27, at 9:15 p.m., over radio station KUTA, the third in a series of radio broadcasts sponsored by the Salt Lake Auxiliary was heard. A fourteen-minute dramatization of one of Colorado's pioneer sheepmen, Hugh Coltharp, was given, depicting incidents which happened at the time he was taking a herd of sheep to Colorado for the first time. The continuity for the broadcast was written by Mrs. Emory C. Smith, and was dramatized by the McCune Players under the direction of Miss Bessie Jones, instructor at the McCune School of Music and Art.

Through reports coming in from listeners, these stories are being very well received and are causing considerable favorable comment, and at the same time give the Salt Lake Auxiliary much publicity.

OREGON

Morrow County

AFTER luncheon the Morrow County Wool Growers Auxiliary held their regular monthly meeting at The Lucas Place. It was presided over by Mrs. B. C. Pinckney, the newly elected president.

The appointment of a budget committee was discussed as well as plans to stimulate interest in the chapter meetings.

Mrs. Ralph I. Thompson, national president, said it is hoped a state lamb week and state wool week may be arranged soon.

The report of the national convention at Spokane as written by Mrs. A. S. Boyd of Baker, state president, was read by Mrs. Orville Smith, secretary.

Mrs. Evelyn Henderson of Pendleton wrote a letter of thanks to the Morrow County Chapter for their $5 which will be used to purchase woolens for Bundles for Britain.

The newly appointed program committee consists of Mrs. Stephen Thompson, Mrs. Philip W. Mahoney, Mrs. Raymond Ferguson and Mrs. C. W. McNamer.

The Morrow County Chapter feels honored that both the National President and the National Secretary have been chosen from its ranks.

Music for the afternoon's entertainment was furnished by Mrs. J. O. Turner and Mary Lou Ferguson, who played two piano duets.

Josephine Mahoney,
Corresponding Secretary

WASHINGTON

Yakima Chapter

MEMBERS of the Yakima Wool Growers Auxiliary celebrated Past-Presidents' Day on Friday, February 21, at the Donnelly Hotel with a one o'clock luncheon. Past presidents attending were Mrs. W. A. Roberts, who was the first president when the first auxiliary was organized in 1928, Mrs. Archie Prior, Mrs. Harry Roberts, Mrs. E. K. Foltz, Mrs. Wm. Watt, and Mrs. Wm. McGuffie. Mrs. Leonard Longmire, present president, was also in attendance.

Reports of the recent state and national conventions were given by Mrs. Roberts, Mrs. Longmire, Mrs. Van Wyk and Mrs. Fairchild.

The Yakima High School girls sextet entertained with several songs.

Luncheon decorations were in a patriotic theme.

Eva Robert,
Recording Secretary

IDAHO

Blackfoot Chapter

ONE of the outstanding social events of the winter season was the "Pot Luck" dinner given by the Blackfoot Wool Growers Auxiliary, January 6, in honor of the outgoing officers.

The new president, Mrs. Chester Loveland, graciously presided, and during the dinner a short program was given. In behalf of the former officers, retiring President Mrs. Leo Montague responded to a clever toast.

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- PTZ now available in two forms for sheep—PTZ Pellets (new and cheaper than capsules) and PTZ Drench.
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Gilfillan's Sheep	2.50
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The 27 members and their husbands were seated at three long tables laid with gleaming damask and decorated with brilliant red hearts and other valentine motifs. After dinner pinochle and Chinese checkers were enjoyed, with appropriate prizes given to winners in each division.

Since the election of the new officers and appointment of the various committees were taken care of at the January meeting, this year's program has been outlined and promises to be one of the best ever. A lamb demonstration, a cooking school, a wool project for the Southeastern Idaho Fair, and a woolen style show are among the special features to be given at the monthly meetings.

Much credit is due the outgoing officers for the splendid condition and spirit of this chapter. To the new officers goes the torch of leadership and love for their success.

New officers for 1941 are: President, Mrs. Chester Loveland; vice president, Mrs. Jack Parker; secretary, Mrs. Frank Berryman; treasurer, Mrs. Frank Hansen; chaplain, Mrs. J. J. Conway; historian, Mrs. Clifford Robertson.

DO YOU KNOW

WOOL is exceedingly strong, even when wet. A single fiber of wool which was stretched while kept wet to 70 per cent of its original length, was only broken by a load of over five sixths of an ounce. Compare the tensile strength of metal wires of the same diameter with wool. Scientific tables show the following values for tensile strengths of materials in wire form:

Material	Tensile Strength Tons Per Square In.
Copper wire	18
Gold wire	17
Aluminum wire	12
Silver wire	19
Wool	17

In clothing the ideal fabric must have strength. It must be able to withstand strain and heavy wear. The fabric must not tear due to rupture of the fibers under strain such as in bending, etc. The fibers must have great tensile strength.

Reprinted from "The Romantic Story of Man and Wool"

Meat Consumers

IN general, most people are alike in that they need meat and like to have it to eat regularly. However, they are not alike in their ability to get the desired amounts they need, or the quality they desire. In the United States, a rough classification divides the people who want meat and need meat, into three classes.

Class 1 includes a minority of Americans who can afford to buy all the meat they want, and can and will cheerfully pay whatever price is charged for it, even when the price is inflated by costs of charge accounts, delivery, or any other services, or by expensive inefficiencies or needlessly multiplied facilities.

Class 2 is made up of the majority of Americans, the people who could buy the meats they need if they were sold to them at the lowest-possible price, a price stripped of the costs of special delivery, charge accounts, duplicate services and non-essentials. These people in Class 2, comprising by far the large part of the consumers of meat in the United States, need meat, know they need meat, and would be perfectly willing to pay a cash price within their means for it and lug it home themselves if existing conditions offered them such a chance. Obviously, as consumers, their problem is different from the problem of the people in Class 1.

Class 3 is made up of the people in American families who, because of unemployment and other reasons, haven't money to buy meat at any price. These consumers have a problem, too, but it is one which must be dealt with through public assistance.

Recognition of these three classes presents meat problems in a different light than that which is thrown on them if all consumers are considered alike. Thus, if consumers in Class 1 do not get enough meat, education is the answer. For Class 2 conditions must be provided wherein they can get more meat at lowest possible costs of distribution. Class 3 can only get more meat if public agencies supply it.

Salt Lake City M. A. Smith

Around the Range Country

(Continued from page 12)

Dixon, Solano County

It has been very wet and warm here since February 1. While the grass has grown very slowly in the valley on account of the very, very wet ground, and ewes and lambs are only in fair condition, the prospects for feed from now on are unusually good (February 27).

There has been very little hay or grain fed this winter; we do not have any stacked alfalfa hay.

I cannot give you the number of fleeces that have been contracted in this area. The price on most of the 8-months' wool in Solano County was 35 cents a pound, although I have heard of some sales being made at 38 cents.

I believe the expense of running sheep in this vicinity has been less this year than last, due to the fact that there has been very little hay fed. The pasture land here that is available for raising grain rents for about $2.50 an acre and will run about one sheep to the acre. It is valued at around $40 per acre.

The most perplexing problem confronting wool growers of this area, in my opinion, is screw worms. At the end of last season they became a real problem, and as we have had such a warm winter, I am afraid they will be worse this season.

The majority of the lambs in this vicinity have been contracted at 10 cents per pound, straight across, weight to be above 55 pounds, and delivery as late as the 20th of May.

Esparto, Yolo County

We have had too much rain and not enough sunshine for ranges. While I think the number of range sheep getting hay and grain this year is about average, some growers say they have fed more hay than in other years. Baled alfalfa hay is selling at $8 to $10 a ton (February 6).

I think we are running too many sheep in this section on the average; however, it looks as if we'll have plenty of spring feed this year. Lack of feed is usually one of our chief worries.

Coyotes are more numerous than usual, due, probably, to so much rain the last two months.

F. W. Nissen

NEVADA

Unusually mild weather prevailed during the entire month, while precipitation was fairly frequent, though not especially heavy at any time or place. This has been the mildest winter at Reno since 1888; as a consequence snow accumulations are not very deep, though moisture supplies are ample. Range feed has been satisfactory, and livestock have continued in good or thriving condition.

Fallon, Churchill County

The weather has been just right, with enough snow to get by on. There are no range sheep on feed here, all wintered out this year. Alfalfa hay in the stack can be bought at $6 a ton (March 1).

Practically all the 1941 wool grown in this district has been contracted at 30 to 32 cents a pound.

Operating expenses have increased the past year; wages are up about 15 per cent. Labor, in fact, is one of our most serious problems at present.

I do not think there is room for any more sheep in this section.

W. W. Whitaker

UTAH

Unusually warm weather persisted through the month, with an unusually large number of stormy or rainy days, though with no important excesses of precipitation in any section. Moisture has continued ample on the desert range, and feed has been plentiful in the feeding lots. These feed and weather conditions have been highly favorable for livestock, which are doing well as a rule.

Hanna, Duchesne County

The wool growers of Duchesne County have had a somewhat severe

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winter this year, mainly due to the shortage of feed caused by lack of moisture during the past summer and the heavy snow during January and February; more moisture has fallen during the past five months, in fact, than in any previous year for sometime past. There has been little wind and an unusual amount of fog this winter.

As a result of weather conditions, large amounts of corn and cottonseed cake have been fed, as well as some hay by a few wool growers. Most of the sheep will come off the range in fair shape, although there will be more sheep in poor condition than usual. The price of alfalfa hay is about $10 a ton, and there seems to be plenty of it (March 3).

It takes between four and five acres of privately owned grazing land in this section to carry a ewe, beside the forage used under Taylor Act and national forest privileges.

Most of the wool in this section has been contracted. Prices on the range clips have been between 32 and 33¾ cents per pound. However, wool from some of the farm flocks has sold at 35 cents.

Coyotes have increased considerably in this county the last year or so. Most sheepmen have to bed their sheep close to camp on this account. Insufficient trapping and lack of poisoning, especially the latter, are the causes of the increase. Heber Moon

Fairview, Sanpete County

Sheep have wintered well as the weather has been mild, but snow is scarce (March 11), and when we begin to trail to water, our losses may come.

I do not believe the number of sheep could be increased in this section. On our range we have a big-game problem. The grass we sow is kept so short that it never can go to seed. The game track up the range early when it is wet. For years we have been promised relief, but are being forced to protect our own rights.

Thirty-three cents has been offered for wools in this area. It looks as if the price of most of the things sheepmen use is going up. Wages, cost of shearing, and wool bags are all mounting.

I own about two acres of land per ewe, valued at $6 an acre and taxed at 7 cents.

Coyotes are very troublesome. Paid trappers, it seems to me, naturally do not have the same interest in killing them that those who work under a bounty system would have.

E. A. Madsen

COLORADO

The weather has been abnormally mild all month, favoring livestock and outdoor work. Only light and infrequent precipitation occurred, being of small importance to livestock interests, there being plenty for soils at present. A little local grazing is reported, as the season appears well advanced, and livestock are in very good condition.

NEW MEXICO

Temperatures have been well above normal throughout the state and through the month, with a great deal of nice, open weather, though with a few periods of light to moderate precipitation. Livestock losses have been especially light this winter, and soil moisture is the best in many years. The range outlook is thus very good. Livestock are in good shape.

ARIZONA

Temperatures were mostly appreciably above normal, being highly favorable for livestock and the growth of early vegetation at the lower levels. Precipitation was frequent enough but not very heavy at any time or place. Desert pasturage has been unusually plentiful. As a consequence livestock have done unusually well, and are in good shape as a general rule.

WEST TEXAS

The winter's supply of moisture has been the best in ten years, and there has been an absence of severe temperatures or storms. As a consequence, spring range prospects are good, and the condition of livestock continues good, with ample forage for current and prospective needs.

Talpa, Coleman County

We have had an extra warm February, with normal rainfall and average green feed (February 28). If there are no late frosts, there will be excellent feed by March 15. Alfalfa hay is costing us $14 a ton.

About 250,000 pounds of wool have been contracted here at 35 to 40 cents a pound for 12-months' wool.

In my opinion nearly all the sheepmen around here are overstocked; in fact, I think that is one of our greatest problems, along with depletion of the range and the instability in markets over a period of years.

Hubert Stokes

Kent, Culberson County

An abundance of moisture and higher temperatures than normal have made excellent range conditions (February 27). Feeding, which is never done except in times of extreme drought, has, of course, not been necessary this year, and there are excellent prospects for a high percentage of lambs. Alfalfa hay in this country is always baled, and present prices on it run from $10 to $12 a ton.

On ranches, now stocked, no more ewes could be run. Quite a few ranchers only handle lambs and sell from the shearing pens to northern buyers, and many ranches also run no sheep, only cattle.

I own about 5 acres of land to the ewe and lease another five. Taxes on the owned land, which is valued at $5 an acre, are 3 cents per acre, and I pay 6 cents an acre for the land I lease.

I have no authentic report of any wool having been contracted around here, but quotations from other sections run from 35 to 40 cents.

Coyotes are increasing here, because no trapping is done in the area north of us to the New Mexico line.

Everyone is in excellent spirits here, with no worry, except the possibility of British wool eventually interfering with our domestic wool prices.

Joe Stocks

Junction, Kimble County

We had the best weather during February that I have ever seen. Feed on the range is excellent (March 4).

About an eighth of the wool of this area has been contracted with 35 cents taking the short wools and 40 cents the 12-months' wool.

Expenses have not increased during the past year.

I own about 10 acres of land per ewe; it is valued at $12 an acre and taxed at 5 cents.

We do not have any coyote trouble here.

G. F. Stewart

Lamb Market Trends And Prospects

(Continued from page 29)

1940. Early feed prospects are quite favorable. United States Department of Agriculture reports suggest that more shorn yearlings will arrive from Texas than last year. Feed conditions are favorable and the total sheep population of the state is 5 per cent larger than last year.

While the supply of lamb in the next two or three months is likely to be larger than usual for the time of year, it probably will not be greater than it was in January and February. Normally, volume declines slightly during the spring and summer months. Competition from other meats probably will diminish during March and early April through the seasonal drop in receipts of hogs but may increase again in late spring.

The seasonal variations in the supply of lamb and the extent to which they are overshadowed by changes in the supply of other meats is shown in the following table which gives the daily average dressed weight of lamb and of all meats dressed under federal inspection in the years, 1931-40, by months:

Average Daily Meat Supplies, 1931-40, By Months

(Dressed weights of animals slaughtered under federal inspection.)

	Lamb and Mutton Million Pounds	All Meats Million Pounds
January	1.98	40.6
February	1.90	35.4
March	1.82	32.5

THE AMERICAN RAMBOUILLET SHEEP BREEDERS' ASS'N

Marysville, Ohio

American bred Rambouillets are dual-purpose sheep, producing an excellent quality of both wool and mutton, which have endured the tests of Yesterdays, not only in the sheep industry of the United States but in every country into which they have been exported, and are the breed of sheep for Tomorrow's world, as they are hardy and quickly acclimated.

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April	1.84	33.5
May	1.79	34.0
June	1.77	34.7
July	1.71	31.8
August	1.87	31.3
September	2.04	32.8
October	2.06	36.1
November	1.86	39.1
December	1.83	40.7

That consumer buying power will be maintained or increased during the spring seems to be almost a foregone conclusion. Even if developments abroad should give quite a shock, the momentum of the defense program is likely to sustain industrial employment.

Then, resumption of government buying of goods has strengthened the outlook for pelt prices. During late February, they reached $3.35 per 100 pounds of live lamb for the takeoff of midwestern packers, representing about 30 per cent of the hoof price.

All told, the economic picture looks rather favorable for lamb prices notwithstanding the large supply in sight for this time of year.

Thus far, the peak for prices this season was reached in February. In the last 24 years, the high point for January-April has never been made in February. This suggests that prices may pass the February peak during March or April.

The annual estimate of the sheep population on January 1 provides the basis for a look still farther ahead. For sheepmen who try to adjust their operations in accordance with the prospect, one of the important questions always is "Where are we in the cycle of production, slaughter and prices?" The accompanying chart attempts to help toward an answer in graphic form to that question. (Page 29)

During the 32-year period covered, the cycles have been irregular. Instead of a cycle of about ten years, there appears to have been one period of protracted liquidation culminating in 1921 and then a period of expansion which is still in progress.

Partly explaining the irregularity in the population cycle in this period have been two basic changes. First was the change of range production to a ewe-and-lamb basis and the elimination of many wethers formerly kept. This contributed to the prolonged liquidation in the total sheep population from 1911 to 1921 without reducing correspondingly the annual slaughter.

Then, a shift in public demand to greater consumption of lamb made possible the broad expansion since the early "twenties." Larger numbers than before were required to depress prices, compared with other commodities.

When examined more closely, the major cycle referred to can be seen to be made up of three minor cycles. This can be seen clearly in the center section of the chart showing the annual changes in numbers on farms. The pronounced liquidation in 1911-16 was followed by two years of expansion during the war, making a cycle of eight years. Then came four more years of liquidation to the extreme low in population, followed by nine years of expansion. After rather slight liquidation during the early "thirties" and the drought period, expansion began once more and is still under way.

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Slaughter has fluctuated in a rough way with the number on farms, but with even less cyclical regularity.

The bottom section of the chart shows the cycles in value which underlie the changes in numbers. For this purpose, sheep values per head on January 1 have been compared with the general level of prices of farm products. Using the 32-year average, 1910-41 as the base, it is apparent that sheep were extremely low in 1910-14, the period used in parity price calculations. This unfavorable position of sheep growers explains the extensive liquidation of flocks at that time. Presumably farmers were turning to higher-priced and more profitable products.

During the World War, sheep prices rose above the long-term average relationship to prices of other farm products for only a short time, so that the accumulation period was brief. The expansion phase of the cycle was feeble. Sheep prices relative to other farm products dropped again right after the World War, leading to renewal of liquidation. Then, in 1925-30 sheep values were much higher than other farm products and a tremendous swing to sheep occurred.

The early "thirties" brought low relative values for sheep compared with other farm products and mild liquidation, but, for the last three or four years, sheep have been high compared with the general run of farm produce and farmers have been turning increasingly to sheep.

The curve of relative value of sheep on the chart shows a slight upward tendency over the 32-year period, that is, sheep have tended to gain somewhat in price compared with other farm products. It is possible that this reflects improvement in breeding, or the gain in the lamb and wool producing merit of the average sheep over the last three decades.

It seems relatively certain that the sheep industry will continue in the expansion stage through 1941. When sheep values will begin to lose ground compared with other farm products is hard to gauge and may depend a good deal on the duration of the armament boom in industry.

Gilbert Gusler